



VANCOUVER THUNDERBIRDS HOCKEY MEMO

June 1, 2018

To: Vancouver Thunderbird Minor Hockey Association's Members

From: Vancouver Thunderbirds Hockey Board of Directors/Executive Director

Re: 2018-19 Registration

Dear Members:

It is that time of the year where we officially shift our focus to next season. We will have some new programs and offerings this coming year that we wanted to share with you before you register, along with the upcoming season's fee schedule.

FlipGive fundraiser will put money in your pocket

Vancouver Thunderbirds Hockey will be offering a pilot fundraising program this coming season that will provide a way for you to see the benefits of your involvement directly. FlipGive is an online shopping tool where your shopping dollars create monies coming back to a registered youth sports organization. Participating stores are ones we all shop at on a regular basis – everything from Amazon to Starbucks to Sport Chek to LEGO and another 200+ stores covering all shopping needs. Anytime you shop online, that store will credit your member account on FlipGive.

Over the next few weeks, we will be designing the levels of the program and will have more details shortly.

Our new long-term skill development program starts this September

Members have asked for a skill development program that would rival the best and we are very excited that we have two of the best in the industry leading our entire program through all age divisions and levels this coming year.

Mike Todd has been part of the TBird family for the past few years. After assuming the leadership role for the programming of the recreational division last season, he has implemented initiatives that have been well received by the membership. Mike is well respected within PCAHA and BC Hockey circles and is known as one of the premier shooting instructors in the Lower Mainland.

The 2018-19 season will see a new long-term partnership with Vancouver Hockey School and Derek Popke, who will be leading the on-ice skill development program for Hockey 1 to 4 and all rep teams. Derek brings a proven curriculum developed over the past 10 years along with the newest knowledge and training available. In his role as Hockey Advisor, he will be working with the coaches in those age groups along with Mike Todd to further support and develop our coaches.

New Midget Pond Hockey program will be offered this season

One of the suggestions we heard from a number of our midget families is that while most are still excited to be part of a full league, some would appreciate the opportunity to stay closer to home and play in a more relaxed environment. Under the leadership of Mike Todd, a pilot program will be launched this season within the midget recreational division. The program will be broken into two mini-seasons with two back to back ice times which will allow players to either play from after Thanksgiving to the Christmas break or from January to the beginning of March. Players will be able to register for one season or for both. The pilot program will have a limit of 40 players in each mini-season and we will require coaches to manage the benches for each ice session. Players will only be permitted to register in either pond hockey or regular PCAHA play.



Changes to 2018/2019 Season Fee Structure

Our registration fees have stayed the same over the last three years. Within this time, Thunderbirds, along with other associations, has experienced a declining player base. Moreover our costs have increased which requires we change our fee structure for the coming season.

Each player's registration fee is comprised of a number of costs that are shared equally across all players in all divisions. These include staffing costs, administration and a number of smaller association wide initiatives. Within division specific costs, the ice, our largest expense, has increased significantly over the past three years. Further, as membership declines and our costs increase, the amount of cost per player increases.

To address both declining player numbers and rising costs, the Board's Finance Committee has recommended the following changes for the coming year:

- A discounted offer for any player entering the Thunderbirds at Hockey 1 or Hockey 2 at \$399 and \$699 respectively in order to begin to increase our membership numbers, and
- An increase in the base fee for all Atom to Midget players, plus an increase in additional rep fees for rep players. The increase in the base fee is primarily due to the increasing costs as outlined above, while the increase in additional rep fees reflects the new skills and coach development/mentorship program and the goaltending skill development program.

Other than Hockey 1 and 2 which have been assigned discounted fees, all other divisions' fees have been set to ensure that each division pays for its own expenses. For example, all recreational players share the costs of the projected expenses incurred by the recreational division. The same principle applies to Hockey 3/4 within their group, and Rep within theirs.

We will provide a breakdown for each division at the upcoming AGM on where these fees will be allocated.

	Position	2017-18		2018-19	
		Base Fee	Rep Fee	Base Fee	Rep Fee
Initiation Minor (Hockey 1)	All	\$770		\$399	
Initiation Major (Hockey 2)	All	\$770		\$699	
Novice Minor (Hockey 3)	All	\$950		\$975	
Novice Major (Hockey 4)	All	\$950		\$975	
Atom	Skater	\$970	\$525	\$1045	\$685
	Goalie	\$485	\$525	\$522.50	\$685
Peewee	Skater	\$970	\$525	\$1045	\$685
	Goalie	\$485	\$525	\$522.50	\$685
Bantam	Skater	\$1070	\$675	\$1145	\$850
	Goalie	\$535	\$675	\$572.50	\$850
Midget	Skater	\$1070	\$675	\$1145	\$850
	Goalie	\$535	\$675	\$572.50	\$850

We are excited about the upcoming season and look forward to continuing to improve the experiences of our members.

Regards,

Vancouver Thunderbirds Hockey Board of Directors/Executive Director

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