

July 9, 2021



Getting Back to “Normal”

August Camps

This summer will be the time to shake off a lot of rust. Not only will players get a chance to be back on the ice before the season starts, they will get the chance to jump back into scrimmages and be reminded how to play in game situations.

For those that are trying out for rep, camps are the best way to ensure they are ready. What they do at tryouts is all that is used to determine where they land and most of it is game play. For the U11 players, they need to know how to play both forward and defence and are assessed in both positions. We have added extra camps this year for this U11 age group to help. Don't miss the chance to arrive to tryouts in full flight!

[Click here to see the camps and register](#)

Season Registration

Space is still available for next season in our U6, U7, U8, U9 and U11 divisions. All others are currently adding names to the waitlist but are at capacity. If you have a friend who wants to come play with TBirds next year, send them [this link](#) so they can get into the lineup!

Rep Tryouts

Deadline to register: July 15

U11: will commence on or immediately after the Sept 10 weekend

U13: will commence on Sat, Aug 28 for all skaters and goalies

U15: will commence on Sat, Aug 28 for all skaters and goalies

U18: will commence the week of Sept 7

Players must attend ALL scheduled sessions unless permission is provided by [the Executive Director](#) - family vacations are not excusable absences.

There are NO tryout sessions occurring on Fri, Sept 3 to Mon, Sept 6.



With the summer days upon us, planning for the 2021-22 season is fully underway. And what a difference a year makes!

The guidance we are receiving from both viaSport and our hockey governing bodies is that September will be a return to normal, with tryouts, games, even tournaments coming back into the realm of what we should be planning for.

Information on ice times and some “what to expect” documents will start to be added to the website later this month and into August so families can start to prepare.

We are looking forward to a return to the social side of hockey and, with restrictions lifting, already have great expectations for the fall.

As always, we need the help of our parents to make this coming season amazing. We are in the process of identifying team staffs for the U6-U9 and

recreational divisions, but there are many other roles parents can help with, starting even during the summer. Be sure to check out the information in this newsletter on some of the roles available.

It is my biggest hope that communication from the association will be greatly reduced as we (hopefully) won't have a new Covid update every few days, so I want to take this opportunity to remind you to bookmark [our website](#). We will post updates both on the home page, news section and within each division page with many updates coming over the summer. If you have questions, check the website first. If you don't see the answer, feel free to email us at thunderbirds@vancouverbirds.ca.

Have an amazing summer and we will see you at the rink!

Tanya Foley, Executive Director
tfoley@vancouverbirds.ca

Congratulations to our 2020-21 Thunderbird Award Winners

At our recent AGM, we shared the winners of our 2020-21 Thunderbird Awards. While all of our amazing volunteers deserved a medal this year, this group was acknowledged for their over and above contributions this past season. Congratulations to the recipients:

Brad Addison U6-U9 Coach of the Year: **Frank Joe, U7 C4**
U11/U13 Coach of the Year: **Brian Dartnell & Keith Biln, U13 C1**
U15/U18 Coach of the Year: **Brian Bartlett, U18 C1**
William Staiger Award: **Lucas Hildebrand, U15 A2**

Don Currie Award: **Terry Neill, U18 C2**
Team Manager of the Year: **Andrea Chivers, U9 C1**
President's Service Award: **Mike Bryden, U18 C2**
Eliopoulos Outstanding Contribution Award: **Dan Tung**

Thunderbird Marketplace

For anyone on Facebook, this is a group you definitely should join! Summer is the time when we all go through the bags to figure out what still fits and what we need to replace. The [Thunderbird Marketplace](#) is a great place to post your good condition hockey equipment that others could use, and also look for replacement items. *Hockey gear only and all members are part of the TBird family.*

Equipment Donation

If you aren't able to sell/donate your gear to another TBird on the Thunderbird Marketplace, another option is an equipment donation event that is being set up partnering with KidSport Canada to get the gear into hands of families who wouldn't be able to play without the assistance of others. More

information will be sent out closer to the date but here are the basic details:

Dates/Times:

Friday, August 6 from 5:00 - 8:00 pm
Saturday, August 7 from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Location: Kitsilano Arena Parking Lot

Accepted items: pads, helmets, gloves, sticks, skates, hockey bags and goalie gear

Richmond Virtual School

The Richmond Virtual School (RVS) program through the Richmond Olympic Oval offers high school students the ability to gain credit while training at the Oval. This is open to students in any district and provides an opportunity to complete technical training and strength conditioning to supplement their TBird hockey experience. This works in conjunction with participating in minor hockey for those who wish to

expand their overall athleticism. For more information, [click here](#).

Sponsorship Opportunities

With many of our programs gearing back up, especially our tournaments with onsite activation or in kind donation opportunities for swag bags, we are actively looking to partner with local businesses. If you or someone you know would be interested in finding out more information, please contact us at sponsorship@vancouverbirds.ca.

Thunderbird Bursary Program

Our Thunderbird Bursary program is ready to help those who may need some financial assistance to play next season. Reminder that the first step is to submit an application to [KidSport Vancouver](#).

Thunderbirds Volunteer Options

All families are responsible for providing at least 3 hours of volunteer assistance outside of their team environment per player this coming season as part of our overall [Volunteer Program](#). We have already begun posting opportunities on the Volunteer Portal so you can get a head start on things! If you used the portal last season, then you can use the same login information. If you have never used it, the username and password are set up with your email address provided during registration - you will be asked to select your own password when you first login.

[Click here to go to the Volunteer Portal](#) to see all the opportunities, but here are a few samples of what we are looking for!

Creative type Opportunities

We need graphic designers, photographers, and people to help organize a photo shoot this summer.

Task Groups

We are looking for 4-6 members to be part of each of the following task groups: 1) social re-emergence (aka the fun post-Covid shut-down social planning club) 2) fundraising 3) sponsorship 4) TBird alumni program (new)

Helping Others

Our new Buddy Coordinator will help connect new to hockey parents with an older, wiser parent who can help them navigate the first season. TBirds in the Community will need a lead(s) for each of our two very important "drives" - Food Bank and Giving Blood.

Logistics Lead and Crew

Have you ever thought about how the bumper pads, hockey nets, goody bags for tournaments got to where they ended up? There are many great volunteers driving these items from rink to rink. We need someone to ensure all the necessary items get to where they are suppose to be. Volunteer spots will also be open for 2-3 people with trucks/large SUVs to be the ones the lead can call upon to help with the actual moves.

Tournament Venue Coordinators

Tournaments will be back this season including TBird hosted events on Thanksgiving Weekend (U13 rep), Remembrance Day Weekend (U11 Recreational) and Family Day Weekend (U6-U9). We will need to have 1-2 people oversee all activities occurring at each venue and become the onsite expert. They will also be responsible for the volunteers for that venue. Some venues only have a few games while others get more so we will need approximately 6-8 Venue Coordinators for each tournament.



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