

FALL 2019 NEWSLETTER



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2019-20 Ayr Minor Hockey season!

The board has been working very hard over the summer preparing a fun and rewarding experience for all our players and families from Junior IP through Midget.

AMHA brings you this newsletter to share the many changes and expanded programs this season, as well as key dates and times to help families be informed.

If at any time, you have questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me or any member of the board. We are here for you!

Wishing you a wonderful season of hockey!

Mike Thibeau
AMHA President

ROWAN'S LAW

This is an **URGENT** update regarding the legislative requirements under the implementation of Rowan's Law by the Government of Ontario.

All Registrants and Team Officials must have reviewed and signed the acknowledgement form before they are permitted on the ice this season!!

Links can be found in the Document Library of the website under the "Rowan's Law" section and the acknowledgment form can be found [here](#).



What is Rowan's Law?

Rowan Stringer was a 17-year old Ottawa varsity rugby player who died from sustaining multiple concussions resulting in a catastrophic swelling of the brain – second impact syndrome. On March 7, 2018, Ontario passed Rowan's Law (Concussion Safety), 2018 and related amendments to the Education Act. However, it is important to understand that this applies to all Sport Organizations, schools, programs and businesses in the province. This is not a hockey 'thing' – it is legislation (Ontario Regulation 161/19) from the Government of Ontario.

All Registrants registering July 1, 2019 or after must have completed the review information and acknowledgement prior to registration/participation.

All Team Officials currently registered will be required to complete the review of information and acknowledgement prior to August 30, 2019.

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PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

With the 2018/19 season about to begin, we have been working hard to develop a plan for players and coaches.

For player development this year AMHA has contracted North Ice Hockey to continue with developing AMHA players. North Ice will be providing 4 development sessions to all players and Goalies from Novice to Bantam. Players will continue to work on the most important fundamental in hockey "Skating". The players will work on proper posture, strides, and edges. Although some of this may seem repetitious we must remember that it takes years of training to perfect each skill. North Ice will also have a goalie instructor out at all the sessions to help improve our goalies angling, and movement in the crease. It is mandatory that the coaching staff is on the ice for these sessions to help correct players and work with North Ice. This is also a learning opportunity for coaching staff to hear the key messages that is being conveyed to the players so that we as a coaching group can continue to repeat the same messages in our player development plans.

This year AMHA will continue to provide our coaching staff with the opportunity to learn from some of the industry professionals. Brantford Minor Hockey has been kind enough to extend invitations out to surrounding hockey associations to attend coaching seminars at their facilities at no cost. The first session in Brantford has been booked September 5th and the email has been distributed to our coaches, these sessions go towards maintenance points for coaches to maintain their certifications. AMHA will also be hosting 1-2 coaching seminars this year that will be used to talk about effective coaching techniques/tools the first session will be in early September.

Looking forward to a great season of hockey!!

Jason Alexander

Director of Player Development

Ice Scheduling for the 2019-2020 Season

All scheduled games, practices, player development and tournaments will be on the website.

Ice Times

AMHA has limited ice time until October 15th when the Queen Elizabeth Arena (Ayr Community Center) opens up. Please check the [Ayr Minor Hockey website](#) for details of team practices, exhibition games and player development. Ice time is tight for the first 6 weeks of the season which means all teams will be at some time or another asked to double up on practice times.



Season Blackout Dates

Monday Oct. 14th, 2019
Thanksgiving

Dec. 5th-8th, 2019
Regional Silver Stick Tournament

Dec. 24th, 25th, 26th, 31st, 2019
Jan. 1st 2020 Christmas, Boxing Day and
New Years

January 25th, 2019
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM.
Rockets Hockey Day in Ayr

February 14 - 16th, 2020
Ayr Hockey Challenge.

Mar. 20th - 22nd, 2020
Major Novice Silver Stick Tournament

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Tryouts

AE Tryouts start on Friday, September 6th and are to be completed on or around Sunday, September 15th.

If your child participated in the Rep tryouts last spring, no additional tryout fee is applicable. For those who did not try out for Rep, a \$40.00 tryout fee is required as well as the completion of the Rowan's Law acknowledgment form found on the website.

Tryout Expectations:

Going out onto the ice and giving instructors 100% respect and effort.

Please note that coaches have been directed to not provide parents or players with any individual's updates throughout the tryout process. Players and parents are asked not to engage the coaches or designated instructors for such feedback.

Regular season for Southern Counties (Rep & AE teams) will start on as early as Monday September 30th, 2019. You may not know whom you are playing until 48 hours prior but you will definitely be playing so be prepared.

Regular Season for Grand River Local League will start the week of October 7th

Please note that Local League evaluations will start up on September 15th. Ice times are posted on the [Ayr Minor Hockey website](#)

Practices

Every team will be given a minimum of one hour of practice per week. You will have a normal practice time during the week but from time to time there may be some movement to reflect conflicts with out of town games or if another team needs to be moved and accommodated. There will be plenty of notice for all of this. During OMHA play downs, Southern County playoffs and Grand River Local League playoffs, you may only have a week or two notice so I would encourage checking the website often during this time. If you want to switch practices with another team, I am fine with this but you must notify me as soon as possible so I can update the Township of North Dumfries.

Game Time Policy

Please ensure that your team is at the rink at least 45 minutes prior to game time. Ice time is extremely tight this year and it is vital that we start on time or if the situation presents itself, we'd like to start early to avoid any kind of possibility of a game curfew.

Game Cancellation Policy

In the event of inclement weather, the ice scheduler will let the head coach or team manager via email or by posting a cancellation notice on the website. According to Southern County and Grand River Local League bylaws, only the ice scheduler, The President, Vice President of Hockey or the Rep convener have the authority to cancel the game. Coaches and Managers **DO NOT** have this authority.

Looking forward to a great season!

Cindy Davis

AMHA Ice Scheduler

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JOIN THE CONTEST!!

**ESSAY
CONTEST
TO WIN
GUELPH
STORM
TICKETS**



Share your Hockey Story to WIN:
What does HOCKEY mean to you
or
A favourite HOCKEY memory



www.ayrminorhockey.com

AMHA is extremely excited to announce a very exciting new essay contest for this coming season.

The McFarlane family has very generously donated 2 season tickets to AMHA for each Guelph Storm home game this year!!! WOW

All of our young athletes in AMHA are invited participate in this contest for a chance to win 2 tickets to a Guelph Storm home game. Simply send us your essay via email to amhahockeyvp@gmail.com

We are asking players to write about one of two things. First tell us why in your opinion hockey is such a great game. Or, share with us a favourite memory from your hockey experience. Tell us why that memory is such a great one for you.

Parents we are really looking for the athlete's words and thoughts. No need to correct grammar, spelling, etc. Aside from those younger athletes who require assistance, we are hoping to receive essays written by the players.

Each week a winning essay will be selected. The winner's names and essays will be posted on the AMHA website each week. Player's essays will remain in the contest for the entire season. Players do not have to enter each week.

The contest is officially open and players can start submitting their entries!

NEW UNIFORMS FOR 2019-2020 SEASON

Ayr Minor Hockey is extremely proud and very excited to announce that after more than 20 years we have updated our look!

We have changed our logo and jerseys to a modern interpretation of the original Ayr Flames logo. The new logo and jerseys are a mix of "old school" and "new school". Our primary colours are now white for home jerseys and black for away jerseys.



A ton of work went in to making this change possible and we thank everyone for their support and efforts through this process.

We would not have been able to accomplish this goal if it weren't for the support of our sponsors and their generosity towards Ayr Minor Hockey. We sincerely thank each and every sponsor for their continued support of our great organization.

The new jerseys will be delivered to us towards the start of the season in October. At this time, matching socks will be available for purchase directly from Ayr Minor Hockey at a cost of 25 dollars per pair. Your coach will have more information for you regarding this at your season start team meeting.

We are looking forward to seeing our players sporting the new jerseys.

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IP/Minor Novice Program

Season Overview

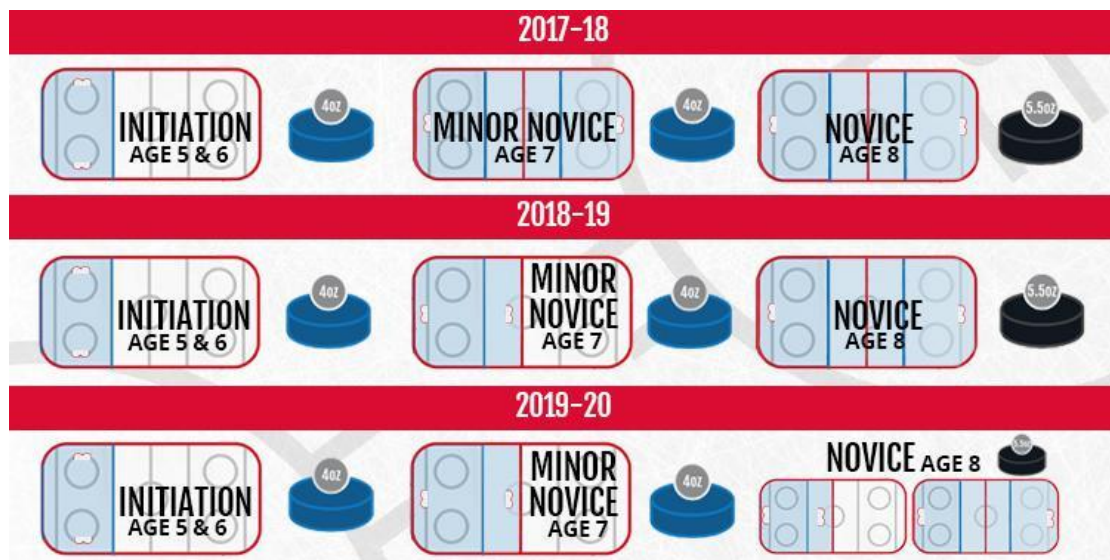
Hello Hockey parents,

Welcome to the 2019/20 IP and Minor Novice hockey season. Below is brief description that will outline our season objectives based on the implementation guide released by the Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA). The implementation guide can be accessed at [here](#).

Age Groups:

Our IP program will be made up of 2 JR IP teams, ages 4-5(as of December 31st,2019) and 2 SR IP teams, age 6(as of December 31st,2019).

Our Minor Novice program is made up of 7(as of December 31st,2019) year olds.



Schedule for IP and Minor Novice:

Please note that Jr. and Sr. IP and Minor Novice ice times start early this year. Your season starts up on Saturday, September 7th at the North Dumfries Community Centre, Greenfield Road, Ayr.

During the first weeks of ice time, the children will have practices and from there be assigned to teams as communicated by the coaches. From there the group and the schedule for practices can be followed going forward.

Please keep an eye on the [Ayr Minor Hockey Website](#) as some dates and times are subject to change. You will be able to find updated schedules at <https://ayrminorhockey.com/Calendar/>

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Team Uniforms:

Team jerseys and socks will not be handed out until the 3rd or 4th practice of your child's team. The coaches will be using those practices to ensure that teams are divided into fair and even teams. Your child will require her/his own practice jersey and socks for the evaluation process.

Season Objectives:

The focus for our JR IP program is to develop basic hockey skills in a fun and positive environment. Most important is the kids have fun and develop a love for the game of hockey. There will be no games played at the JR IP level against other centers.

Our SR IP program, our association's primary focus is on developing our SR IPs in a fun and positive environment, building on the basic hockey skills learned in JR IP and introducing modified game play. SR IPs will begin playing other centers in February.

Our Minor Novice program, will again build on the hockey skills and passion for the game of hockey learned in the IP program. As a directive, we will maintain a 3 practice to 1 game ratio throughout the season. Minor Novice will begin game play after December 15. The teams are also eligible to enter 3 Jamborees during the course of a season.

As this is a new implementation, there will be many questions and comments. Please feel free to reach out to me by email.

I look forward to seeing you all at the rink!

Ken Kinnaird - kinnaird@rogers.com

IP/Minor Novice Convenor

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DATES TO REMEMBER -

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- 2nd Registration Fee Instalment - August 31
- Ben McFarlane Recognition at the NDCC – September 21
- 3rd Registration Fee Instalment – September 30
- Rep Fee Due Date – September 30
- AE Tryouts Start – September 7
- Coaching Clinic - DEVELOPMENT 1 - September 7-8
- LL Evaluations Start – September 15
- Coaching Clinic - COACH 1 - September 28
- Southern Counties Season Start – September 30
- Grand River Local League Start – October 7
- Ayr AE Regional Silverstick - December 6 through December 9

WE'RE SOCIAL

Follow us on social media for the latest AMHA info. Have something to share – Tag us!



@AYRMINORHOCKEY



@AYRMINORHOCKEY



@AYRFLAMESHOCKEY



AMHA MISSION STATEMENT: *"We are dedicated to providing the youth of Ayr a fun, rewarding and positive environment to play amateur hockey"*

AMHA MOTTO: *Hometown Proud...*

As Don Cherry would say keep your stick on the ice and your head up in the corners...

...see you at the RINK!