



The Executive of North River Minor Hockey would like for all coaches, parents and players to have a fun and enjoyable experience within North River Minor Hockey Association.

This handbook is designed to give information to our registered players and their families. If you have questions that are not answered here, just ask! 😊

**North River Minor Hockey's "Code of Conduct" places an emphasis on respect:**

- Respect the game.
- Respect the rules.
- Respect the opponents.
- Respect the coaches, officials, parents, executives, players, arena staff, volunteers and their decisions.
- Respect the facility.

\*Maintain self-control at all times.

Please note: Any excessive profanity, harassment, bullying, or aggression directed at a game official, executive member, team official, parent, child, arena staff, or volunteer will not be tolerated and appropriate disciplinary action will be result from these actions.

**What are my responsibilities as a NRMHA parent/guardian?**

- Support your player in a positive manner.
- Adhere to the "Parent Code of Conduct".
- Have your players at the rink on-time.

- Respond to emails from your team manager.
- Ensure that your player has a practice jersey. (**Team jerseys are very expensive and are not to be worn for practices.**)
- Support the coaches/manager. Follow the appropriate chain when dealing with a concern.
- Address issues directly with the team/association and not in the stands/lobby with others.
- Respect the coaches' preferences for family members in the dressing rooms.
- Support the team in any way that you can (taking your turn selling 50/50, volunteering for the Sweetheart, offering to bring an additional player when they don't have transportation and you have room, etc.)
- Have fun and enjoy the ride!

### **How do I get started?**

Player registration opens in mid-August and closes in mid-September. The dates change from year to year. You can find the registration link on the website. Registration dates are posted on the website as well as on the NRMHA Facebook page.

### **What does my registration pay for?**

Player registration covers many different things including but not limited to:

- Ice for practices and games (20 one-hour game slots and 20 hours of shared practice times) \*Rep teams pay more for additional ice times.
- Insurance for players, coaches, and registered volunteers
- Development and clinics
- Administration costs
- Ice Coordinator

- Officials (referees, lines people, time keepers) \*Not always included in registration costs in many other associations, making their registrations seem much lower than ours. Parents have to pay officials directly.
- Purchase of jerseys and other gear
- Maintenance of the website

### **Why do I need to pay extra for conditioning camps and tryouts?**

Conditioning camps are used to get players on the ice early to get ready for the upcoming session. Some players like to just get in extra ice time while others want to get ready for AA tryouts. These are optional ice times and are not covered under the registration cost. Each ice time costs \$10/player. This money pays for the ice times and officials for exhibition games. Any extra money from these times is given to the rep team for that division.

### **How are coaches selected?**

We are fortunate to have so many fantastic volunteers who coach each year.

People who are interested in volunteering to coach are asked to watch for when the call goes out for each division.

We have a screening process that is followed; all coaches are required to complete Respect in Sport, provide a criminal record check (including a vulnerable sector check), and have the appropriate coaching level certification for the level that they coach.

The association may interview coaches when there are multiple candidates for the available positions.

Additional information for coach selection is also gathered from year-end surveys and other feedback from managers, parents, players, and volunteers.

**How do players try out for rep teams (AAA, AA)?**

Players from NRMHA may try out for many different teams, some of which are comprised of players from multiple associations.

Before the season begins, times for conditioning camps and tryouts will be posted for each division. Please see the appropriate website for teams not directly run by NRMHA (eg. Matrix and Wildcats).

There will be links posted and players can register. The division coordinator will communicate the times on the website and possibly through email.

If you aren't sure of the times, please reach out to your division coordinator (names are posted on the website).

**How do AA coaches select teams?**

Each group of coaches has a different process that they use for identifying players. This *may* include running drills/scrimmages while on the ice with the players to watch players, having someone else run drills/scrimmages while they sit in the stands to observe, and having an independent evaluator make notes for the coaches.

Each group of coaches has a list of what they are looking for in selected players. This includes skill and talent, but they also look for other traits such as how players interact with teammates, attitude, and dedication.

Please understand that it is not easy for coaches to select teams and respect their decisions.

**What are rep fees?**

Because rep teams have extra ice time, those teams are responsible to pay additional costs for what they use above and beyond what is covered with registration. There is also additional costs for extra on-ice officials at some levels. These fees are included in the team budget and are collected with the other team fees.

**How are A teams made?**

At the beginning of the season once the rep teams are selected, each A player will be on the ice for two sessions. The coaches are usually in the stands while volunteers run the drills/scrimmages. After the two sessions, the coaches meet with the division coordinator to draft the teams. In this meeting, they take into consideration the skill levels, personalities, and ages of the players in an attempt to create balanced/fair teams. Requests may be made to the division coordinator, but these may be considered only after all of the other factors.

Creating the teams is not an easy task. Please accept the teams when they are posted.

\*For a variety of reasons, a few players may have to shuffle early in the season to balance the numbers/skills. Again, please respect these decisions.

**What are team fees?**

Once the teams are established, each team should have a parent meeting to discuss the season. A budget will be outlined at this meeting. Many teams opt to register in tournaments that are above and beyond the regular season. Tournament costs vary. Teams ask parents to contribute extra money to cover these costs along with some other costs associated with the team. Some teams may choose to fundraise to cover some or all of these costs. Aside from 50/50 and sponsors, each team may run one Hockey PEI approved fundraiser each season.

Depending on the situation with your team, you may be asked to cover the travel costs for the coaches, especially if the coaches are not also parents on the team.

Feel free to reach out to your division coordinator or a member of the executive if you feel that the fees for your player's team are excessive.

**Why are some of my ice times in Crapaud?**

NRMHA is the second largest association in the province, and we need a lot of ice time. With only one ice surface in Cornwall, there simply is not enough time available at the APM to meet all of the current needs. We make an effort to have **most** game times at the APM with many practices happening at South Shore Actiplex. We recognize that this is not ideal, but it is our only option.

### **What does the team manager do?**

At the beginning of the season, the coaching staff will select a manager.

A team manager has many tasks. One of these is communication with the families of the players. At your team meeting, the manager will discuss how they will communicate with you (email, website, team app, etc.). You should receive regular and relevant communication from the manager.

Managers also act as a liaison between parents/guardians and the coaching staff. Please address any issues about the team to the manager and she/he will communicate with the staff and follow up. We ask that parents not address coaches directly with concerns.

If you have concerns about the manager for your team, please discuss with the division coordinator and/or the executive.

### **What if I have a concern through the season?**

While we hope that everyone has a smooth season, we know that issues may come up. The nature of the concern will determine what you do.

With the exception of very serious situations, we ask that all families exercise the 24-hour rule. (Waiting 24 hours before reaching out about an issue.) This allows for cooler heads to prevail when dealing with concerns.

Your first point of contact is the team manager. If the concern is with the manager, then you can reach out to the division coordinator. If neither of those are an option, then contact a member of the executive.

For serious concerns/issues, please include a member of the executive in the communication.

### **Why do I need to volunteer/donate to the Sweetheart Tournament?**

The Sweetheart is a major fundraiser for NRMHA. Funds from this tournament have been used to:

- Purchase jerseys
- Purchase equipment
- Pay for development
- Contribute to year-end provincials fees
- Pay for other things within the association

**\*ALL NRMHA players benefit from the profits of this tournament.**

### **What is the SYSPEI Goldrush Lottery?**

NRMHA members have the option to participate in the weekly SYSPEI (Support Your Sport PEI) Goldrush Lottery. Participants register with the lottery to receive 3 ticket numbers. They may pay \$5 to be included in a weekly 50/50 draw. Each Thursday at 1:00. When the number is drawn, IF the player paid the \$5, then they win half of the pot. If they did not pay that week, then the money goes into the draw for the following week.

NRMHA earns over 30% in sales (for supporters of our association) plus an additional 0.5% of all ticket sales because we maintain the lottery licence. The fundraiser brought in approximately \$20 000 in revenues last year!

### **What is the money from the SYSPEI Goldrush Lottery used for?**

The intent of this fundraiser is to keep registration costs lower and help to cover costs within the association.

Last season, ice time increased as well as insurance costs. The lottery

was used to offset that cost.

This season, registration was lowered using this money. It will also be used to pay for the new website and the costs associated with it, as well as continuing to pay for the increased costs of Hockey PEI fees.

**Why do I get fundraising tickets with my registration?**

Selling these tickets is an optional way for families to recoup some of the cost of registration. You have essentially purchased the tickets with registration. By selling some or all of the tickets, you are helping to lower the cost of your player's registration. If you choose not to sell the tickets, then you can put your own name on them and hope to win!

**How do I learn more about the association?**

- Read the website.
- Attend the annual meeting at the end of the season.
- Volunteer to help!