

Dear Bow River Bruins Hockey Parents and Players,

Welcome to the 2019-2020 hockey season! I hope everyone had a great summer and you were able to spend some quality time away from the rink. My kids enjoyed playing some baseball this summer and getting away to our cabin for a couple of weeks.

I'm super excited about the upcoming season. We have a lot of new faces on the Board and there's a lot of enthusiastic energy to keep improving your experience with Bow River Hockey. A few programs that we are initiating this year include:

- ***NEW* Timbits Monday Night Academy.** We have partnered with SDR Academy to include extra development for our Timbits players and mentoring for our coaches. <http://www.bowriverhockey.ca/monday-night-timbits-academy/>
- **Friday Night Academy** returns and will be bigger and better. My boys attended a few of the sessions last year and had a great time. This program will be tailored to our Novice to Peewee players. <http://www.bowriverhockey.ca/friday-night-hockey-academy/>
- ***NEW* PD Day Mini camps** – on days that both the Public and Catholic schools have PD days your player can participate in skill development both on and off the ice. <http://www.bowriverhockey.ca/pd-day-mini-camps/>
- ***NEW* Dryland Program for Bantam and Midget.** We have partnered with Dash Training (dashtraining.com) to include a specialized training program for those age groups.
- **Coach Training.** We are building on the Coach Training provided by Hockey Alberta last year. These sessions will now run on Sunday nights and feature highlights such as Developing Defencemen, Special Teams, Puck Skills, Skating Skills and Goaltending.
- **Coach Mentorship.** We will continue with our in-house Coach Mentorship Program and will be adding a pre-season on-ice coaching skills development component as well as season-long practice planning assistance, team guidance and general coach mentorship.
- ***NEW* Coach Development.** We have teamed-up with Hockey Alberta to introduce a specialized Coach 1 training and mentorship program for our Bantam and Midget players. This program will fully Coach 1 certify those players who are interested in increasing their hockey knowledge and will allow our more senior players to help our younger Bow River players.

Evaluations for our Atom and Peewee Goalies started last week and this week the rest of the players hit the ice. Evaluations can be a stressful period for parents and players, but I want to remind everyone they are just a snapshot in time and will not define a player's hockey career. I strongly believe we have a very good process that really focuses on providing a fair, consistent, and comprehensive evaluation that results in players participating at an appropriate level that is based upon their skill level. Last year, our survey results showed 84% of respondents believed their player was placed at the appropriate level, and 95% believe that they were we at the right level or plus/minus one level.

In the end, we want players to grow as hockey players and most importantly have fun. I truly believe Bow River is a great place for our players to do that.

See you around the rink!

Craig Kipkie, President,

Bow River Bruins Hockey Association

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