

President's Letter

April 15, 2018

Hello fellow Bow River Bruins Hockey Association members. Even though it does not seem like winter is ready to leave, the hockey season is over. It has been a busy last few months and will continue to be over the next few months getting ready for next year. This letter is to update you on these items.

Hockey is family – Life lessons through the common sport. Whenever a hockey family member has a tragedy we can all identify with it. The Bow River Bruins offer our heartfelt condolences to the Humboldt Broncos Hockey Association. Coming this April 21 at BCA Arena a fundraiser skate will occur. BCA and BRBHA together wish to have this event. Details will follow shortly in an email notice.

I would also like to notify you of the upcoming changes for next season. Firstly, the Atom structure will be implemented in Peewee. Simply explained, those players will be spread over only 6 tiers. Our hockey grid will be dependent on the number of teams we have in the Atom and Peewee age groups. Secondly, Novice hockey will move to ½ ice structure, as per the Hockey Canada mandate. Next year will be the transition season: 2nd year novice players will continue to play on full ice, and the 1st year players will move to ½ ice. The outline and rules for both will be reviewed over the next few months and be ready for the start of the season.

The Boundary review has been pushed into next season for resolution. BRBHA will be looking to increase our association size and access to local arenas. Please note 7 arenas have come back on line or have been built for the upcoming season. BRBHA is working hard to access ice opportunities based on this. The BCA twin is still pending, but is going slowly as the items to achieve a development permit need to be addressed.

The BRBHA board will be announcing the Annual General Meeting for the end of May or start of June. Several positions will be up for election. Please consider if you would like to participate at this level of our association. I would also like for you to consider attending the AGM. We have had poor attendance the past few seasons. The board will be reviewing the upcoming season, and would like your feedback. If you cannot attend please forward your comments to myself.

I want to thank all the Coaches and Managers from the past season. BRBHA had a very successful season with many teams going to the final 3 at the city championships. The mid-season coach surveys were very positive overall, and the feedback I received throughout the year was also very positive. Stay tuned for the year end survey to be sent out soon. A season cannot be a success without all the parents participating on each team, the age group coordinators or the board members volunteering the hundreds of hours it takes. So, I thank you all.

About now, many of you have got over the grind of hockey playoffs and into your next sport or activity. If the sun shines maybe those soccer fields and baseball diamonds will become available. Please remember our association sponsor Ricochet fitness www.ricochetfitness.com has conditioning and fitness going on now, as well as summer camps. Further details can be found on the Ricochet website.

Jordie looks forward to the athlete as well as parent sessions. During the off season Jordie will be offering dryland training session for all potential coaches on behalf of the BRBHA. I would suggest attending to maximize the dryland component of BRBHA hockey development.

Renovations will be occurring at the BCA. The BRBHA room will become the site of a new coffee lounge and elevator installation. This is the start of the Hub conversion and updating of the current facility before further renovation can occur. We will keep you updated on the BRBHA relocation. Further, this weekend the gym will also be shut down to have the flooring upgraded to a sports floor. The renovations are planned as much as possible over the off season of hockey, and we will keep an eye on how this may impact BRBHA at the start of the 2018-19 season.

To keep this President's Letter short, the above items will be updated with further information and details over the coming weeks.

Michael Burke,

BRBHA President.

president@bowriverhockey.ca