



NAFHA 2002 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the 2002 - 2003 season !

NAFHA has continued to grow and change with the departure of the Edmonton Chimos to the NWHL and the Edmonton Midget Rebels participating in the Under 18 NAFHA Division. NAFHA has grown in size with Spruce Grove returning to the league from a year hiatus, the Stingers, New Serepta, Ice Cubes, Renegades and St. Albert joining our league for the first time. *We continue to outpace any other Female Hockey league in Canada with growth and attraction of new players to the game!!*

Referees

NAFHA has the pleasure of welcoming Paul Schmidt to the referee assignor position for NAFHA. He replaces our referee assignor that had been doing the role for several years. We have experienced a learning curve as we started this season with a renewed understanding of the roles and responsibilities the referee assignor has in Edmonton and the surrounding areas. **If you are a team outside of the Edmonton zone, your local zone officials representative is to assign officials for your games.** Please contact your Tier VP if you have questions.

Be aware, if there is a circumstance whereby referees are not present for a game, under the Canadian Hockey Rule #41 (k) - "If for whatever reason, the Referee or Linesmen appointed are prevented from appearing, the Managers or Coaches of the two competing clubs shall agree on a Referee and one or two Linesmen. If they are unable to agree, they shall appoint a player from each team who shall act as officials".

Women's hockey is growing substantially in Edmonton in the last couple of years. For some Saturday nights, there are NWHL, NAFHA, U18 NAFHA, the EGHA teams ,Pandas (CIS), and ACAC hockey competing for the pool of Referees that we draw from. If you are interested in picking up the referee discipline, there is plenty of opportunity to earn extra cash, and contribute to the female game. Contact Paul from our website for more information.

Affiliations

A couple of reminders for the Affiliation process:

1. That minor- aged players can only be affiliated from the zone from which you are located in. E.g. Edmonton teams can only affiliate Edmonton zone minor players.
2. That the documentation be filled out correctly (there is two pages to your affiliation sheet) and sent to the NAFHA Registrar FIRST.
3. The NAFHA Registrar and the Female Hockey Alberta representative will complete the audit process.
4. Teams must designate their Provincial intention before being allowed to affiliate players from lower tiers.
5. Leave at LEAST a week turn around time for an affiliation process to be complete. You cannot play the affiliated player **until you receive written confirmation back from the Hockey Alberta Female Representative.**
6. Affiliates from "Team Sheet" Teams cannot participate in Provincial playdowns nor Provincials.
7. Affiliate players must be clearly marked on your game sheets when they play with the team.

Game Scheduling

Games are scheduled and must be adhered to the time and place that they are assigned. There is zero tolerance for teams to reschedule games unless otherwise stated in our Operational Rules and Bylaws. Since the schedule is produced in early October and produced for the entire year, there cannot be changes due to the complexity of accommodating cross over games, Tournaments, Provincial positioning, Provincial Playdowns, Bingo Nights accommodation, and Referee Assignments.

Team Japan

The Japanese National Team will be in Edmonton over the Christmas Holidays Dec 21 - Dec 27. They will participate on a series of games against NAFHA teams. Watch our Web site for more details at www.nafha.ab.ca !!!

Hosting Provincials - AAA and A

NAFHA will be hosting the AAA and A Provincials in Edmonton this year. All teams that are not participating in the A Provincials will be mandated to volunteer and assist in these tournaments. Your team will be contacted early in the new year for your responsibilities. Please step up and help out - as these teams help your Provincials in other years!!

Bursaries

Yes! Money to play hockey!! Check out our website for more details on the Lisa Antoniuk Bursary (\$350) if you are a student and participating in NAFHA, or the Tina Kristensen Bursary (\$300) for an outstanding individual athlete on your team. Both bursaries close January 15, 2003 - so hurry to have them submitted!

Volunteer Help

Many of you have great ideas - and our league is only continuing to grow. We have a series of small projects we need help with - Team Japan, the AAA (NWHL) host for Provincials, and even the All Star game. Your executive will be needing more volunteers for next year as well - and your involvement is the basis for the future. Email your VP for more information... and build the league for a better tomorrow!! We don't need people that are knowledgeable in hockey - just willing to learn.

Role of your Tier VP

The VP is your first point of contact for concerns and questions regarding NAFHA. They are your resource, not someone to abuse. Their role is to broadcast important information as our year progresses. Bear in mind, that a league such as ours, changes and challenges arise as we operate. The goal is to avoid as many errors as possible, and patience on your part is important in realizing there are some events that are beyond the control of immediate corrective action.

NAFHA asks you that the more that our membership helps in developing solutions to the challenges that face all of us, we will be able to be focused on the game we all love and enjoy. If there is an opportunity to change the method that we operate, please bring forward a motion at our meeting in June to fix the error for the future.

Light Weight Puck Study

The Light Pucks still are being studied for the women's game. Although NAFHA has chosen not to participate, SAWHA is trying the pucks for the first half of their season. IF you would like to try the new pucks, please contact CHA and they will supply you with them at cost.

Future of This Newsletter

If you would like this newsletter in the second half of the season, please let us know what else you would like to see... and we'll gladly bring forward your suggestions!