

Salmon Arm Minor Hockey Association would like to welcome you to the 2025/2026 hockey season! We are excited to welcome back our players, coaches, volunteers, and families. For those of you who are new to the community and/or joining us for the first time, welcome! We hope you are excited to begin a new journey with us here in Salmon Arm!

You're receiving this information because you have registered a player for Recreation hockey this upcoming season.

In this document you will find information regarding staff updates at the association, startup and season scheduling, team selections, coach selections, and some information about roles we still need to fill on the board.

### **Staff updates**

As a Board, we have identified a few key areas of operational improvement from seasons past and have made an adjustment to the staff structure to support facilitating those improvements.

It was decided by our board in March that SAMHA would create a new position of Executive Director for the Association. The role was established to provide more support for the important off-ice work of strengthening relationships with Sponsors, Donors, the Rec Society, City Hall, local Arena schedulers, our board, volunteers, and to bolster the operational structure of the Association which will improve the delivery of hockey programming for our members.

We are pleased to formally announce the hiring of Jason Brown who has been working in the role since April. Jason has been a volunteer coach and board member who is entering his fourth season with Salmon Arm Minor Hockey. We believe that the addition of Jason as a leader among our staff will improve the product both on and off the ice.

This move was made with the intention of maintaining the position of Manager of Hockey Operations, and the responsibilities of that role will become much more heavily focused on player and coach development both on and off the ice.

Many of you will have had the pleasure of working with our Manager of Hockey Operations, Cole Slaney for the past two seasons. Throughout his time with us, Cole was always very forthright in his desire to pursue other career opportunities as they arose, and in May the decision was made that Cole would be moving on from his role as Manager of Hockey Operations.

We would like to thank Cole for the years of dedicated service to Minor Hockey here in Salmon Arm and recognize the contributions he's made along the way for the many families, and players who he's worked with during his tenure.

Of course, with change comes opportunity, and we are excited to be actively working to hire a replacement for the work Cole was handling. We are currently interviewing a short list of very highly qualified and experienced candidates for the part-time role of Director of Hockey Development.

We will have more information to come regarding that hire soon!

## **Startup & Season Schedule**

One of the main points of feedback we've received from members is the desire to have more forward scheduling, and better communication so that our families can make their plans for the season. We recognize that as a key part of the satisfaction of our membership and have made a concerted effort to improve in this area.

The season schedule is broken into three categories: Startup, Regular Season Practice, and Games (Tournaments included).

**Today, you are receiving the Startup portion of our schedule which runs between September 8 and September 28.** Please look below for the division that applies to your player(s). Outlined in this document are ALL sessions for each age category. Players will be broken into groups for pre-evaluations and evaluations, and your groups will be assigned at least 1 week prior to your age category starting up.

You will receive information on which group your player(s) will be a part of from the Division Manager in your division, and that individual will be your main point of contact with the Association for the season.

\*All divisions times and dates are listed below\*

## **Team and Coach Selections**

As a part of our startup schedule, balancing games for all divisions U11 and older will be held the weekend of September 26-28. Team selections will be completed for all teams prior to September 26<sup>th</sup>, with most of those meeting happening the week of September 22-25.

We will communicate all relevant information to the coaches as they are named.

We are currently looking for more coaching applicants for all divisions in Recreation. You can put your name on the list by following the link and filling out our form for coaching applications [HERE](#)

## **Volunteer Board Positions**

If you are interested in joining the board as a volunteer, we are currently looking for volunteers to assist with the following positions:

U13 Division Manager

U7 Division Manager

If you or anyone you know would like to be a part of our volunteer group please contact our Executive Director, Jason Brown at [executivedirector@salmonarmminorhockey.com](mailto:executivedirector@salmonarmminorhockey.com)

### **U18 Female Recreation Season Start-Up Schedule**

**Practice 1:** September 5-7 Weekend

**Practice 2:** September 5-7 Weekend

**Practice 3:** September 12-14 Weekend

**Practice 4:** September 15-18 Weeknight

**Practice 5:** September 22-25 Weeknight

**Exhibition Game:** To be determined

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REGULAR SEASON PRACTICE SCHEDULE BEGINS

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### **U15 Female Recreation Season Start-Up Schedule**

**Practice 1:** September 5-7 Weekend

**Practice 2:** September 5-7 Weekend

**Practice 3:** September 12-14 Weekend

**Practice 4:** September 15-18 Weeknight

**Practice 5:** September 22-25 Weeknight

**Exhibition Game:** To be determined

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REGULAR SEASON PRACTICE SCHEDULE BEGINS

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**We are continuing to work on solidifying declarations for U15 and U18 Female Recreation and are awaiting reassignments from the Novas. We will have more complete information for you soon regarding your start-up ice times, but it is important to know that we will have an option for your player regardless of what team declarations look like.**

**We'll keep you informed as we go through the process, so you are aware of where things stand. You can rely on the dates above, and when ice times are solidified (ASAP) we will share that information with you.**

### **U13 Female Recreation Season Start-Up Schedule**

**Practice 1:** September 12: 4:15 – 5:15p (Spectator)

**Practice 2:** September 14: 12:45 – 1:45p (Spectator)

**Practice 3:** September 20: 10:30 – 11:30a (Spectator)

**Practice 4:** September 21: 9:15 – 10:15a (Spectator)

**Practice 5:** September 27: 9:15 – 10:15a (Spectator)

**Practice 6:** September 28: 10:30 – 11:30a (Spectator)

**REGULAR SEASON PRACTICE SCHEDULE BEGINS**

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**We have declarations set for U13 Female Recreation and will be hosting one team. Therefore we are able to provide ice times for startup for this group.**

### **U11 Female Recreation Season Start-Up Schedule**

**Practice 1:** September 12-14 Weekend

**Practice 2:** September 12-14 Weekend

**Practice 3:** September 19-21 Weekend (Tryouts/Evaluations)

**Practice 4:** September 19-21 Weekend (Tryouts/Evaluations)

**Balancing Games or Tryout continuation pending:** September 26 – 28 Weekend

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**REGULAR SEASON PRACTICE SCHEDULE BEGINS**

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**Because we are working through the options as it relates to a development team, or a development tournament team, we are unable to confirm exact ice times for this group. We will continue to work on finalizing our declarations for this division and will provide concrete ice times as soon as we have a direction for this group. You can rely on the tentative start dates above as a guideline in the meantime.**