

FORT SASK

NEWSLETTER

MINOR HOCKEY

Your Fort Sask Minor Hockey Accurate and up to date information



Welcome to the 24-25 Season

We extend a warm welcome to all FSMH members for the 24-25 season.

This season's registration was incredibly swift and lively! We kicked off registration at 9 am on June 15th, and within just an hour, we had surpassed 500 registrations. While we aim to accommodate as many participants as we can in our hockey program, due to current ice limitations, we've had to cap our registration for this season, unfortunately resulting in waitlists at most divisions.

To keep our members informed and engaged throughout the season, we are launching our monthly Newsletter, which will be sent to all registered members and posted on our website. Regular editions will commence on Sept 1, 2024.

In the inaugural issue, we will delve into the challenges we facing early in the season and provide more insight into the waitlists.

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What is new for 24-25

If you missed our AGM, here are some exciting updates for the 24-25 season

Development:

- Our new development program is now available for all community (EFHL) hockey teams, offering five sessions with a professional development instructor per team. These sessions will be on Fridays.
- U9 teams will receive three power skating sessions, & two goalie sessions.
- U11-U18 teams will receive one power skating session, two skills sessions, & two goalie sessions.
- U7 teams will receive a minimum of two power skating sessions during your regular practice times.
- RAC teams have development built into their regular season plan and will schedule their own development per team.

Fundraising:

- The fundraising bonds are back this season. a \$50.00 bond was built into your registration this season. If your family sells a total of \$50.00 of online FSMH raffle tickets per player starting in Oct 2024, you will be eligible for a refund or credit to use towards next seasons bond.

Evaluations:

- This season, FSMH has again contracted Sports Evaluations to conduct the community (tiered) hockey evaluation and team formation.

U9 Goalies:

- This season, we are trying something new at U9. We will allow up to six players to identify as full-time goalies at the U9 level. Each goalie will be evaluated as both a player and a goalie during evaluations. We hope this fosters early goalie interest and development for our association.

U11HADP Rangers:

- This season, Hockey Alberta has announced that the U11 HADP program will officially be an AA team with a new AA league.

Practice Jerseys:

- Last season, we were very pleased with the new practice jersey program, and we will repeat it this season. For U9-U18, the cost of your participant's practice jersey was included in your registration. This season, these jerseys will be ordered from both Enhance It (Fury and RAC) and Source for Sports (Community Rangers)

Team and Player photos:

- This season, FSMH will again have Big Wall Pix out to take player and team pictures. Your memory mate and digital picture are again included in this year's registration.



What's Happening

Registration:

This season's registration was incredibly swift and lively! We kicked off registration at 9 am on June 15th, and within just an hour, we had surpassed 500 registrations. While we aim to accommodate as many participants as possible in our hockey program, due to current ice limitations, we've had to cap our registration for this season, unfortunately resulting in waitlists and FSMH being unable to confirm any registration until team formation is complete.

Wait List:

Why do we have them? What does it mean if I am on the waitlist?

We have wait lists for a couple of reasons for community hockey.

- Many players chose to start their tryout journey in AA/AAA (no, this is not necessary, just a personal choice). It is tough to estimate the number of registrations our association can accept until our regional teams (Rangers Athletic Club teams are formed) and we know how many resident players will be trickling down to community hockey.
- The current ice shortage in Fort Saskatchewan limits FSMH to accommodate around 40 teams per season,

Continuation of Waitlist Details:

- Waitlists are frustrating, but they also guide our decisions on team shifts based on waitlist data.

Why the ice constraints?

- We have known for many years now that we would eventually find ourselves in this position without a new arena in Fort Saskatchewan.
- The city uses the "Standards of Play (SOP)" to allocate ice time from September to March. With 40 teams, we have reached the maximum SOP allowance, leaving no room for expansion.

Bruderheim and Lamont are also included in the SOP calculation with the City of Fort Saskatchewan, and these rinks are needed for us to be able to provide the programming we do.

- What's the solution? A new facility. Imagine the possibilities. Engage with your city council, attend meetings, and unite to advocate for a new facility that could be the catalyst for the growth of our sport. Let's work together to make this vision a reality.

Where are we seeing the growth in FSMH?

Across the entire association.

- One week into registration, we saw an estimated 10-12 participants in each of the Rangers U11-U15 divisions and about 5 in the U18 Rangers Division.
- Each Fury team has 1-3 participants on the waitlist including players outside of our boundaries.



Learn Something New

With FSMH we have many stream of hockey and participate in 4 different leagues.

- U5/U7 - House league. These are intro to hockey teams and do not participate in league play.
- U9-U18 Ranger/Fury Community Hockey - These teams participate in the EFHL.
- U11AA regional team - this team is moving from HADP to AA this season and Hockey Alberta will introduce a new league for this division closer to the season start.
- AA (U11, U13, U15, U16, & U18) regional teams. These teams participate in the NAHL and the U11AA league.

Community Hockey vs. RAC (Regional) Hockey

- Community Hockey comprises U9-U18 teams consisting of FSMH boundary players who are assessed and grouped with peers of comparable skill levels.
- These teams compete in the EFHL, playing around 20 games per season and weekly practices.
- On the other hand, RAC Hockey is composed of top players from the AAA and AA draw zones defined by Hockey Alberta.
- RAC Hockey demands a higher financial investment and dedication from participants due to more practices, games, travel, and other commitments.



Member Feature

Stay tuned for upcoming issue where we will feature a coach, player or volunteer with in FSMH.

Important Dates:

- July 15th - Resident Registration Closes - Player movement form registration starts
- Aug 6 - Skating Camps begin
- Aug 12 - Conditioning camps begin and continue through the month of Aug.

Visit our website for camp registration information

