



SOOKE MINOR HOCKEY – A Volunteer Organization

Like any other non-profit youth sport organization, the Sooke and District Minor Hockey Association (SMH) can continue to thrive only through the volunteer efforts of its members. SMH parents and friends contribute countless hours and valuable experience supporting the organization and our children by volunteering to serve as board members, activity coordinators, coaches, tam managers, team sponsors, etc. SMH truly appreciates the contributions made by these individuals and businesses!

Why is your volunteer help so important?

First off, the registration fees remitted by members do not cover off all expenses incurred by the Association to deliver its hockey programs. While SMH is a grateful recipient of provincial gaming funds and sponsorships from local businesses, these revenues also leave the organization short. Other fundraising activities must, therefore, be carried out by volunteers.

Secondly, a lack of volunteers is putting the squeeze on those who do more than their share. More often than not, the onus of delivering the best possible hockey program rests on too few people. The more volunteers the Association has, the more it can do for its most important members – the kids! Also, volunteers who are not so overwhelmed may come back to serve for more than one season!

Finally, the delivery of our hockey programs, as overseen by Hockey Canada, BC Amateur Hockey Association (BCAHA), Provincial Gaming Authorities and insurance providers, is getting more complicated. Each new program – and there have been many in recent years – relating to coaching certification, referee training, insurance issues, gaming, abuse and harassment policies, safety initiatives, etc., must be administered and overseen by someone at the local minor hockey association level. In response to heavy administrative loads, some associations have hired paid administrators. Many associations who have yet to go this route – it increases registration fees – fear that, at some point, it will be a necessity unless more volunteers can step forward to help.

Thanks in advance to all our volunteer members for their valuable time and effort on behalf of our Association and our Kids!

The Sooke Minor Hockey Executive