



# **NORTHEAST ZONE HOCKEY**

**2011 - 2012**

## **ATOM 1 HANDBOOK**





# Northeast Zone Hockey

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Northeast Zone Hockey together with Northeast Zone Sports Council welcomes you to NEZ Atom 1 Hockey. We wish you a successful season of hockey.

This handbook will give you a guideline of what to expect from NEZ Hockey and what NEZ Hockey expects from you.

NEZ Hockey is governed by the Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of Hockey Canada, Hockey Alberta, Hockey Edmonton, Edmonton Federation Hockey, Northeast Zone Sports Council and the Northeast Zone Hockey Committee.

Bylaws, Operating Rules, Rules of Discipline and general information of these organizations may be accessed online at:

Hockey Canada [www.hockeycanada.ca](http://www.hockeycanada.ca)

Hockey Alberta [www.hockeyalberta.ca](http://www.hockeyalberta.ca)

EMHA & Edmonton Federation Hockey [www.emha.ca](http://www.emha.ca)

NEZ Sports Council & NEZ Hockey [www.nezsports.com](http://www.nezsports.com)

## **GOVERNANCE:**

The Atom 1 team is governed by the NEZ Atom 1 Hockey Committee. This committee includes:

- Brave-Raiders – President or delegate as appointed by the President
- Eagles – President or delegate as appointed by the President
- Northstars – President or delegate as appointed by the President
- NEZ Hockey – Atom Category Director or delegate as appointed by the Category Director
- NEZ Hockey – Director or delegate as appointed by the Director.

The NEZ Hockey Director will serve as Chairperson of the Committee and will vote only as a “tie-breaker”.

**REGISTRATION:**

All Atom 1 players will have registered with the NEZ Operating Area – Brave-Raiders, Eagles or Northstars – as defined by the NEZ Hockey Operating Rules. No player may be on the ice before being properly registered.

**FEES:**

Player registration fees follow the player. Once the team has been formed the Operating Areas will forward your registration fee to NEZ Sports Council and this money will be used by NEZ Hockey to operate the team.

**COACHING STAFF:**

Persons wishing to coach the NEZ Atom 1 team will submit applications to coach and coaching staff will be selected by the Atom 1 Committee. NEZ coaches are expected to take courses and be certified as mandated by the rules of hockey. NEZ Hockey will pay the cost of these required courses but course fees must be pre-authorized by the NEZ Atom 1 Committee. NEZ Hockey will budget up to \$300.00 per season for coach apparel. Coach apparel fees must be pre-authorized by the Atom 1 Committee yearly. NEZ Hockey supports our coaching staff. Coaches are to be treated with respect at all times.

**TRY-OUTS / TIERING / TEAM FORMATION:**

All registered NEZ Atom players are welcome to try-out for the Atom 1 team. Team selection will be facilitated by the NEZ Atom Committee with input & consultation from the Atom 1 coaching staff. Each of the Brave-Raiders, Eagles and Northstars will provide a minimum of two evaluators to every skate and they will evaluate the players. The number of tiering / try-out skates will vary from year to year based on available ice but the minimum number of skates available for each player will be 2. After each player's second skate they will either be given their next ice time to continue with the Atom 1 try-outs or will be given an ice time to return to their Area Atom program. After each additional Atom 1 skate this process will continue until the final team selection. The final team will be selected by the NEZ Atom 1 Committee. This evaluation and selection process is difficult for both players and the evaluators. Every effort is made to ensure a fair and equitable process. We ask that you do not make the process more difficult with your actions and comments.

**ICE:**

There is no charge to the players for try-out / tiering ice. The cost of this ice is covered by your registration fee and by funds from NEZ Hockey. Once the final team is selected additional practice ice may be available from NEZ Hockey. The number of preseason ice slots will vary from year to year based on available ice and the number of hockey teams in NEZ. This ice will also be at no additional charge to the players.

Prior to the start of the season the NEZ Atom 1 team will be given their round 1 game and practice schedule as designated by EMHA and Federation Hockey. This will be the case prior to round 2 and prior to the final round of the regular season as well.

Additional ice may be available from NEZ Hockey. This is called the Surplus ice. Surplus ice is purchased by NEZ Hockey and is divided based on the number of teams between the three Operating Areas and NEZ Hockey. The NEZ Atom 1 team will be offered their share of the ice by the NEZ Ice Allocator. Any ice used from this Surplus ice is to be paid for by the team. The current rate for this ice is \$132.00/hour (subject to change).

There is never enough ice!! If the Atom 1 team wants additional ice for practice or exhibition games it is their responsibility to find and purchase this ice. Additional ice may be available from time to time from the three Areas, at Edmonton Garrison, outdoors at the Community rinks or at rinks in neighbouring communities. It is not the responsibility of NEZ Hockey or the NEZ Ice Allocator to find additional ice for your team.

### **UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT:**

NEZ Hockey will provide home and away jerseys, jersey bags, pucks, puck bag/pail, boards, pylons and first aid kit to the team. These uniforms and equipment must be returned clean and in good repair to NEZ Hockey at the end of the season. Each player is responsible to return their jerseys back to the team who will in turn return them and the equipment to NEZ Hockey. The Atom 1 team will be charged \$125.00 for each jersey that is not returned. The team will recover this money from the player.

NEZ Hockey will also supply home and away socks for all players. NEZ Hockey will charge the team \$10.00 per pair for socks. The team will then charge this fee back to each player. Socks will be the property of the player.

### **FUNDRAISING & VOLUNTEER COMMITMENTS:**

Each family shall be required to work 1 bingo for NEZ Hockey for each player on the Atom 1 team. Bingo dates will generally be available at the first parent meeting at the NEZ Sports Council office. Parents will be required to select their bingo and will need to leave a volunteer commitment cheque of \$100.00 dated the day of their bingo. It is your responsibility to work your bingo or to find a replacement worker. Volunteer commitment cheques will be returned at the end of your bingo or will be cashed by NEZ Sports Council if you fail to work the bingo.

NEZ Hockey also runs a Super Bowl Football Raffle and each NEZ team is expected to participate. Each player's parent is required to sell 2 books of raffle tickets. Sold tickets and the money are to be turned in prior to the deadline to your team manager or designate. The team will turn in the tickets and a team cheque covering all ticket sales to NEZ Hockey. This fundraising by NEZ Hockey is important. Revenue generated by fundraising allows NEZ Hockey to keep registration fees as low as possible, to purchase jerseys & equipment and to run the program.

Minor Hockey Week: NEZ Hockey and the three Operating Areas are expected to run the five NEZ Arenas for Minor Hockey Week. All NEZ Hockey teams will be required to cover shifts at Clareview and Glengarry Arenas. The number of shifts per team can vary from year to year depending on the number of games and the number of NEZ teams. Generally shifts are approximately 3 hours long and each team is required to supply 5 workers for 2 to 3 shifts. This generally means no more than 1 shift for the parent of each player. Minor Hockey Week is an important part of the player's season and it cannot run without our volunteers!

### **TEAM MANAGEMENT & TEAM MEETINGS:**

After the final team selection and prior to the start of the hockey season there will be a meeting at the NEZ Sports Council office with the player's parents, the coaching staff, the NEZ Atom 1 Committee and a representative of NEZ Sports Council. At this meeting it will be expected that the team management will be selected. At minimum there is to be a team manager, treasurer, uniform manager and parent liaison. Other positions for the effective management of the team may also be selected by the team's parents and coaching staff. NEZ Hockey Atom 1 Committee representatives will be introduced and communication within the team and between the team and NEZ Hockey will be discussed. It is expected that if there are any issues on the team during the year that every effort be made to settle the issue within the team. Players and/or their parents are expected to take their concerns to the coaching staff and/or the parent liaison. The point of contact for the team to NEZ Hockey is the NEZ Atom Director or their designate. It is expected that any concerns from the team and/or a player or their parents(s) will be communicated to the NEZ Atom Director through the team manager or coach. Except in unusual &/or serious matters all communication is to come through the team manager & coach. Additional meetings between the NEZ Atom 1 Committee and the team may be called from time to time as required. Some years "some" additional meetings are required and some years no additional meetings are needed.

### **TEAM EXPENSES & BUDGET:**

At the first parent meeting or a timely subsequent team meeting a yearly budget will be set and must then be submitted to the Treasurer of NEZ Sports Council. Together, as a team, you must decide what the team wants to do and how to pay for it, what tournaments you want to enter, what team fundraising you want to do, what apparel you may want to purchase. At the end of the season a final accounting must be submitted to the NEZ Sports Council Treasurer. Surplus funds should not be returned to the parents until all uniforms and equipment have been returned and all team bills have been paid.

### **PLAYOFFS:**

Play Fair .... Play Hard .... Win Gold!

### **PROVINCIALS:**

The top Edmonton Atom 1 team will win the right to play in the Atom Provincial Championships. There is not much time between the end of the playoffs and the start of the Provincial Championships – some years just a few days! So if you're close, prepare to play. There is no charge for the team to participate in this championship tournament – you've won the right to play. Should your team win the right to play it is the parent's responsibility to pay for travel, hotels and other expenses. NEZ Hockey does not budget money for travel to this tournament....BUT....don't hesitate to ask for funding. We are very proud of our Atom 1 team and certainly want to help.

### **CODE OF CONDUCT – ZERO TOLERANCE:**

Northeast Zone Hockey & Northeast Zone Sports Council has a Code of Conduct Zero Tolerance Policy as outlined in the NEZ Hockey Operating Rules (available online at [www.nezsports.com](http://www.nezsports.com)).

In addition to our own code of conduct all participants, players, parents, fans, coaches and administrators are also governed by the Codes of Conduct and Zero Tolerance of our governing bodies. Play hard, cheer loud, play fair and always show good sportsmanship. Sometimes play is intense and emotions run high. Remember the 24-hour rule. Do nothing for 24 hours, then write down your concerns and submit them to the parent rep or team manager.

The use of all tobacco products is prohibited in all City Arenas.

### **DISCIPLINE:**

All hockey participants are governed by the rules and discipline policies of NEZ Hockey, NEZ Sports Council, Edmonton Federation Hockey, Edmonton Minor Hockey, Hockey Alberta and Hockey Canada. Some issues and infractions carry set penalties & discipline while some issues are arbitrated and settled through the code of conduct and a hearing committee. Codes of Conduct and discipline policies are available online at the web sites listed on page 1.

EMHA has a "For the Good of the Game" program.

*"The EMHA has seen a need to address the fundamental value of fun, respect and development of the Game both generally and within the Edmonton context. These values manifest themselves into the general area of athletic and hockey development, on-ice activity and off-ice activity. The EMHA sees the Game having arrived at a critical point requiring it to focus on and re-emphasize values, fun respect, and positive development. Thus the program, " **FOR THE GOOD OF THE GAME** " has been created."*

If there are code of conduct incidents that need to be addressed this is a good avenue to submit your concerns. The For the Good of the Game Incident Report forms can be accessed on the EMHA website under the forms tab and are submitted directly to the EMHA Discipline Chairperson for investigation and discipline.

Avenues of appeal are also available online on the websites listed on page 1.

**REMEMBER!**

Players learn and play the game. Coaches teach and coach the players. Parents and fans watch and cheer. Everyone has a role. Remember what your role is!

**AND MOST IMPORTANT!**

Have some fun. Enjoy your hockey year.