



NORTHEAST ZONE HOCKEY

2016 - 2017

MIDGET HANDBOOK





Northeast Zone Hockey

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Northeast Zone Hockey together with Northeast Zone Sports Council welcomes you to NEZ Midget 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, Edmonton Minor Hockey, 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

Hockey Alberta www.hockeyalberta.ca

Hockey Edmonton www.hockeyedmonton.ca

NEZ Sports Council & NEZ Hockey www.nezsports.com

GOVERNANCE:

The NEZ Midget Hockey Director oversees and runs the program under the governance of the NEZ Hockey Committee.

REGISTRATION:

All Midget Hockey players register directly with the NEZ Hockey Midget Registrar. No player may be on the ice before being properly registered.

FEES:

Player registration fees are set by NEZ Hockey. Registration fee for the 2016-2017 season is \$800.00 per player.

COMMUNITY LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP:

All players must be members of their home Community League. Community League memberships may be purchased from your home community league or online at EFCL at <http://efcl.org/membership>. Please purchase your membership prior to registering.

REFUNDS:

Prior to the first try-out skate a full refund less a \$35.00 administration fee will be given to players who withdraw from the program. Once the try-out skates start, refunds will be given to players who withdraw from the program less the \$35.00 administration fee and less \$25.00 per scheduled skate. Once team formation **begins** refunds will only be **considered** in the event of a season ending injury – a doctor's note is required. Team formation begins with the first move of players from group to group (usually after the second skate). In the event that we are unable to place a player on a NEZ team every effort will be made to find an alternate team outside of our zone. Should this happen and the player chooses to not transfer to an outside team then a full refund will be given.

COACHING STAFF:

Persons wishing to coach with the NEZ Midget program may submit applications to the NEZ Midget Director. The NEZ Midget Director is responsible for coach selection. 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 Midget Director. NEZ Hockey will budget up to \$400.00 per season per team for coach apparel. Coach apparel fees must be pre-authorized by the Midget Director yearly. NEZ Hockey supports our coaching staff. Coaches are to be treated with respect at all times.

BODY CHECKING & NON-BODY CHECKING MIDGET HOCKEY: **New 2016-17******

Midget Tier 1 & 2 will now be referenced as A and B. All remaining categories of play in the EFHL Midget program will be referenced as community hockey programs and renumbered accordingly. All Community Hockey Programs will be non-body checking categories of play.

What is the difference between Body Checking & Body Contact?

- **Body Contact:** Incidental contact of two opposing players in pursuit of the puck or position on the ice in the same direction. Body contact occurs as a result of movement by the offensive player.
- **Body Checking:** A players' attempt at gaining the advantage on the opponent with the use of the body. Body checking results when two opposing players collide on the ice skating in opposite directions or when positioning and angling allow the checker to use the force of the body to gain advantage.

TRY-OUTS / TIERING / TEAM FORMATION:

All registered NEZ Midget players will participate in the try-out / tiering skates. Team selection is done under the direction of the NEZ Midget Director. This evaluation and team formation process is difficult for players, the evaluators and the Director. 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.

NEZ MIDGET EVALUATION PROCESS:

1. When are the play evaluation sessions?

Midget evaluations will start Friday, September 23.
Midget team formation will start after the first two skates.

2. How many evaluation sessions will there be?

Midgets will have approximately 30 slots of ice starting September 23

Our goal will be to be at team size by October 9th. Count on a minimum of 20 evaluation slots.

3. What is being evaluated?

Player skill and game sense.

Bantam players will be evaluated on skating ability (forwards/backwards) with the puck, puck handling, agility, shooting, hockey sense, work ethic and the ability to follow directions.

4. Who will do the evaluations?

The NEZ Midget Director, together with coaches and other evaluators (ie: goalie evaluator) will do evaluations.

5. What should the player wear to the evaluation?

Players must wear full standard hockey equipment. A numbered pinnie will be issued to each player at each evaluation. These pinnies are to be turned in after every skate.

6. How are the players notified of their standing in the process?

All notifications are posted on the NEZ Hockey website.

7. Will the player be evaluated in a skill and game environment?

Yes, both. Skills include skating, passing, puck handling, shooting, effort and attitude.

8. What happens after the evaluation sessions?

Midget players must check the website daily and will continue with the group in which they are listed. www.nezsports.com Then click hockey, then Midget Hockey for player lists.

9. How soon after evaluations does the season start?

Approximately 2 weeks.

10. How will the evaluation information be used?

Evaluation is a numbers based system that allows us to group like-skilled players to form teams.

The first movement of players is the start of team formation.

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 teams are formed 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.

There is never enough ice!! If your 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 Hockey Edmonton (ice@hockeyedmonton.ca), 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.

The current rate for extra ice purchased from Hockey Edmonton is \$156.00/hour (subject to change).

UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT:

NEZ Hockey will provide home and away jerseys, jersey bags, pucks, puck bag/pail, coach 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 team must have a jersey parent for home & away jerseys. Hockey jerseys are not to be kept by each player. The team will be charged \$150.00 for each jersey that is not returned.

Uniforms are NOT to be crested with anything including name bars.

NEZ Hockey will supply socks for all players. Socks will be the property of the player.

APPAREL

All Northeast Zone Teams wanting to purchase apparel will do so from our approved suppliers. These are the only companies that have authorization to the rights to the NEZ Hockey Logo.

Alberta Sportswear
9868 – 41Ave
Edmonton, Alberta
780-436-9437

Allsports Replay
13016 – 82 St
Edmonton, Alberta
780-760-2121

Elite Sportswear
14703 – 118 Ave.
Edmonton, Alberta
780-454-9775

FUNDRAISING & VOLUNTEER COMMITMENTS:

Each family shall be required to work 1 bingo for NEZ Hockey for each player. Bingo dates will generally be available at registration. Parents will be required to select their bingo and will need to leave a volunteer commitment cheque of \$200.00 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 every NEZ team is required 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 *one 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 all NEZ Arenas for Minor Hockey Week. All NEZ Hockey teams will be required to cover shifts at designated 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 selections and prior to the start of the hockey season each team will hold a team meeting. 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. 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 Midget Director. It is expected that any concerns from the team and/or a player or their parent(s) will be communicated to the NEZ Midget Director through the team manager or coach. Except in unusual &/or serious matters all communication is to come through the team manager & coach.

TEAM EXPENSES & BUDGET:

At the first parent meeting a yearly budget will be set and monthly maintenance payments must be set, then be submitted to the NEZ Hockey VP of Finance (nezsports@telus.net). 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 Hockey VP of Finance. Surplus funds should not be returned to the parents until all uniforms and equipment have been returned and all team bills have been paid. NEZ Hockey will pay the cost of referees for all regular season and playoff games. All referee receipts during the year will be reimbursed to the coaches from the team fund. Referee receipts are to be turned in at the end of the season to the NEZ Hockey VP of Finance and a reimbursement cheque will be issued to the team.

NEW: A completed NEZ Cheque Requisition is required for ALL requests for funds. This requisition must be completed in full, scanned and emailed with backup documents and receipts to nezsports@telus.net

GAMING LICENSES:

If your team wishes to hold a fundraising raffle or other event that requires a license from Alberta Gaming then you will need to complete the Eligibility for Raffle License Application with Alberta Gaming then apply directly with Gaming for a Raffle License. Northeast Zone Sports Council will no longer allow use of their Gaming License for team fundraising events.

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).

NEZ takes violations of the Code of Conduct – Zero Tolerance policy very seriously. Those who violate this code can expect serious consequences and lengthy suspensions.

Social Media: Participants must recognize that they are personally responsible for the content they publish on social media platforms like Facebook, Flickr, LinkedIn, Twitter, YouTube, etc. Be mindful of posting content that you would not want the public to see; what you publish is public and will be for a long time, so consider the content carefully. We reflect a diverse set of customs, values and points of view. Don't use comments, contents or images that are disparaging, discriminatory, harassing, libelous or engage in any conduct that would not be acceptable in a normal workplace. Show proper consideration for others' privacy and for topics that may be considered objectionable or inflammatory. Remember there are consequences to what you publish. Unacceptable content, if brought to the attention of Northeast Zone Hockey, may give rise to discipline in accordance with the Code of Conduct – Zero Tolerance policy.

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, including E-cigarettes (vaping) is prohibited in all City Arenas. **THE USE OF CHEWING TOBACCO IS PROHIBITED!** This applies to both players and coaching staff.

COMPLAINTS – THE PROCESS TO FOLLOW:

ALL COMPLAINTS ARE TO BE IN WRITING. VERBAL COMPLAINTS WILL NOT BE ACTED UPON.

Parent Issue / Complaint to
Coach &/or Parent Liaison (an attempt must be made to settle all issues/complaints at the team level first)

If no settlement or further action is required to
NEZ Midget Category Director

If further action is required the NEZ Midget Director will forward the matter to the appropriate Executive of the NEZ Hockey Committee.

DISCIPLINE:

All hockey participants are governed by the rules and discipline policies of NEZ Hockey, NEZ Sports Council, Edmonton Federation Hockey, Hockey Edmonton, 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.

Hockey Edmonton has a "For the Good of the Game" program.

*"Hockey Edmonton 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. Hockey Edmonton 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 Hockey Edmonton website under the forms tab and are submitted directly to the Hockey Edmonton Discipline Chairperson for investigation and discipline.

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

REPECT IN SPORT:

As mandated by Hockey Alberta the on-line Respect in Sport course is mandatory. One parent/guardian from EVERY family must take the on-line Respect in Sport Parent Program. No player will be allowed in tryout unless this course has been completed. Please print the certificate as confirmation that the course has been completed. *It is not necessary to do this course every year – if your family completed the course in a previous season you do not have to take it again.*

AND MOST IMPORTANT!

Have some fun. Enjoy your hockey year.

2016 – 2017 CONTACTS:

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