

Happy New Year to all! We are approaching the half-way point of our hockey season and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the team managers and coaches for helping NRMHA in getting our season off to a great start. I have not seen all the teams play but have been to a lot, and things seem to be going quite well, and our teams are competing very well in their leagues.

I would like to take a moment to remind all of our teams and parents about displaying respect and sportsmanship in our Arena and those that our teams play in. NRMHA has had a great reputation over the years as an organization that displays these qualities and it is important that this continues. For those that have been around for a while, there were lean years in the competitive department in our association, and now that we have many teams on the winning side of the game, we want to be sure to remain respectful of our opponents. Excessive cheering when differences in scores are high, booing other teams accomplishments, and cheering other teams failures **are not** examples of good sportsmanship and respect.

I would also like to remind all teams about respect towards officials in our arena and others we play in. These officials have a very difficult job to do, and many of them are still learning the game just as our players are. Coaches and players are held to a standard during the game and can receive penalties for their actions. As fans the only recourse an official has is to ask for the parent to leave the rink, and if this becomes an recurring issue, individuals may be sent to NRMHA discipline committee. We want to avoid this as it adds extra work and stress to our volunteer positions. In other provinces Respect in Sport has become mandatory for all parents with kids in minor hockey. Hopefully we will not have to go this route as it will again add to the expense of participating in the game.

If there is any feedback that any individuals would like to pass along to the board, please forward concerns to your manager who will pass along to the coordinator.

Enjoy the remainder of the season.

Trevor Lank

President NRMHA