



RAIDERS HOCKEY

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

www.raidershc.ca

#WEARERAIDERNATION

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy November Raiders!

As we finish up the seeding round and head into the season break, we are ready to experience some exciting opportunities for teams to play in tournaments, go on some road trips, play some mini sticks, and of course enjoy some parent time! Now that the season start-up tasks are wrapping up, we have been looking into more initiatives on how we can improve your hockey experience. Please see the following list of what the board, and our volunteers have been working on.

Some of the initiatives we are excited to see again are:

- U7 Future Stars Tournament
- Raiders Annual Community Christmas Challenge
- Raid the Rink – U9 & U13
- The Respectful Athlete Course for U13 players
- Intro to Hockey
- Kids Cancer Care Tournament

Here are some new initiatives that you can expect to see this season:

- A third jersey announcement
- A customized mouth guard partnership for all players U9 & up
- Optional workshops for our families & players to encourage the well-being of our participants
- Alberta Children's Hospital Hockey Kids Helping Kids Program

As always, we would like to emphasize that this association operates solely on our volunteers. Thank you to everyone who is dedicating their time and effort into helping our teams with their operational duties, and to those who are bringing forward new ideas and making them happen.

Here are some FAQ's that are often asked at this time of year:

When will we see the Regular Season Schedule?

Hockey Calgary is set to release the Regular Season Schedule on *November 27, 2024*. Once our ice scheduler has the Hockey Calgary game schedule, she will be able to finalize the Raiders practice schedule and send it out. Please expect it near the end of the month.

Will we have scheduled practices during Christmas?

No practices will be scheduled by the Raiders between Christmas and New Years. If teams wish to schedule their own practices and purchase ice themselves, they are welcome to.

When does hockey start up again after Christmas?

Hockey Calgary's regular season resumes on *January 3rd, 2025*. Please expect to see practices scheduled anytime after Jan 1st.

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter, enjoy your season break!

Leslie



RAIDER OF THE MONTH

Brayden Naess-Antony

We are proud to recognize Brayden Naess-Antony as the Raider of the Month for November. His exceptional leadership, dedication to hockey, and unwavering commitment to his team, teammates and the broader hockey community make him an outstanding member of our organization. Brayden consistently goes above and beyond—whether on or off the ice.

Brayden's hockey journey began at age 5 when he first played Jr. Timbits for the Saints in 2013. What started as a casual interest quickly grew into a lifelong passion, sparked by a birthday skate with his older brother and friends. One of his most memorable moments came in 2019, when he competed in the Atom AA Provincials. In 2020 Brayden transitioned from the Saints to SVHA and currently plays defense and is an Assistant Captain for the U18 Raiders NBC 2 White, where his leadership shines both on and off the ice.

Although Brayden was sidelined by knee surgery during his first season with the Raiders in 2023, his passion and commitment to hockey never wavered.

Beyond playing hockey, Brayden has embraced multiple coaching and mentorship positions, including serving as a referee and referee mentor for the past four years, volunteering his time to act as a mentor for the Raiders' Intro to Hockey program, and taking on the role of Assistant Division Coordinator for U13. Brayden is also the first to give his time to supporting younger players, and often takes on the role of "Deke," the Hockey Calgary mascot, for the entertainment of our youngest players but, please don't spoil the secret for them!

Outside of hockey, Brayden is a Grade 12 student at Notre Dame High School and an avid lacrosse player. He helped lead his Knights U17 B team to a city championship and a spot in the 2024 ALA provincials. When he's not on the ice or field, Brayden enjoys spending time with friends and keeping his younger cousins out of trouble on the family farm. After high school, Brayden plans to pursue a career in construction, but for now, you can find him on the ice, mentoring others, and enjoying his favorite drink, a Tim Hortons Iced Capp.

Congratulations, Brayden! Thank you for everything you do to strengthen Raider Nation and the hockey community as a whole.



RAIDER VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Bryon Calon - Raiders Goalie Coordinator

We are very pleased to announce that Bryon Calon has been named the Raiders November Volunteer of the Month!

For those who haven't had the pleasure of meeting him, Bryon serves as the Raiders Goalie Coordinator, a position he has excelled in since 2017. Bryon began his role as Goalie Coordinator with the Crowfoot Hockey Association and continued to serve in this capacity through the amalgamation of our organization as the Raiders.

Over the years, he has become the cornerstone of our goalie program, overseeing everything from goalie evaluations to collaborating with our development partners. He is also responsible for organizing the weekly goalie development clinics and dedicating countless hours to improving our players' skills and our team's overall save percentages.

Under Bryon's leadership, the Raiders Hockey Club has developed one of the strongest goalie programs in the city. His tireless commitment and dedication over the past eight years have not only shaped the success of our goalies but also contributed significantly to our hockey club.

Bryon, has shared that he will be handing over the torch after this season and it is important for us that we take a moment to thank Bryon and celebrate his leadership and commitment to our organization.

Bryon, thank you for everything you do. Your hard work and passion are truly appreciated, and we are lucky to have you as part of the Raiders family. You will be leaving big skates to fill!



RAIDER NATION TOURNAMENTS

RAID THE RINK U9 & U13

The excitement is building as the Raid the Rink tradition continues this month! Both our U9 and U13 tournaments are coming to a rink near you, and we can't wait to see the action unfold. While a lot of planning and preparation has already gone into organizing these events, we will need even more support to ensure everything runs smoothly. Keep an eye out for **Association Volunteer Hour Opportunities**—your help will be key in making these tournaments a success!

TOURNAMENT CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP & DONATIONS

Anyone interested in supporting any of our tournaments through corporate sponsorship or donations are asked to reach out to Curtis Califatis at director-large2@raidershc.ca

U9 RAID THE RINK
November 21st - November 23rd

U13 RAID THE RINK
November 28th - December 1st



U7 JR. & SR. FUTURE STARS

Get ready for the Raiders Future Stars U7 Jr. & Sr. Tournament this **December 13th-15th at Crowchild Twin Arena!** This legacy tournament, a cherished tradition for over a decade, showcases the talent and enthusiasm of our youngest players in a fun, competitive environment.

As we gear up for this exciting event, we'll need volunteers to help make it a success. **Keep an eye out for Association Volunteer Hour Opportunities**—it's a great way to earn volunteer hours while being part of a long-standing tradition. Let's come together to support our Future Stars!



U15 Stick it to Kids Cancer

The Raiders are proud to host the 10th Annual Stick It to Kids Cancer Tournament, with all proceeds supporting the Kids Cancer Care Foundation of Alberta. This incredible organization provides vital support to families battling childhood cancer across the province.

Over the past nine years, the tournament has raised over \$615,000 for Kids Cancer Care, and we're excited to continue this important tradition.

U15 Stick it to Kids Cancer
March 20th - 23rd, 2025



RAIDER NATION EVENTS

RAIDER NATION PHOTO DAY 2025

On November 3rd, the Raiders gathered for a smooth and successful Photo Day, capturing lasting memories for the season. A big thank you to **Nadia Stawarz** and **Cindy Ly** for their steady leadership and organization, ensuring the day ran seamlessly from start to finish. Huge shout out goes to all our volunteers who checked in and organized our teams and made sure we kept to our schedule getting teams in and out as quickly as possible!

We would also like to express our appreciation to **Adrenalin Source for Sports** for joining us and bringing an extra touch of fun to the day. The Bauer Mystery Mini Sticks were a huge hit and added a great element of excitement especially for our younger players.

A special thank you as well to **Prime Sports Team Photography** for their professionalism and skill in capturing such high-quality photos that will be cherished for years to come. We appreciate everyone who helped make it a memorable experience for the Raiders. Thank you to all involved!



RAIDER NATION NEWS

A CALL TO ACTION:

2nd Annual Raiders Christmas Community Challenge

As we approach the holiday season, the Raiders Hockey Club is excited to once again challenge all of our teams to participate in the Raiders Christmas Community Challenge. The holidays are a time for reflection, gratitude, and giving back, and we want to spread that spirit throughout our community.

This season, we encourage each team to engage in a community initiative that makes a positive impact on those around us. While the holidays are a time of joy and celebration for many, we are also mindful that not everyone is as fortunate, including some of our very own Raiders families. There is no better time than now, with the spirit of giving all around us, to make a difference in the lives of others.

We challenge each team to plan and execute an activity or initiative that reflects our values of kindness, compassion, and community spirit. Whether it's fundraising, donating time to a worthy cause, or simply spreading joy, every effort can help make the season brighter for those in need.

We will be highlighting the efforts of our teams on our social media sites and website to showcase the collective impact we are making together. Check us out if you are not already following us on Instagram and Facebook.

We look forward to seeing how each team contributes to making a meaningful difference this holiday season. Together, we can spread holiday cheer and show the true spirit of the Raiders community.

Thank you for your participation, and for helping us make this holiday season one to remember!



PROMOTING RESPECT & ONLINE SAFETY: New Initiatives for U13 to U18 Teams

As part of our ongoing commitment to fostering a positive and supportive environment for all players, we are excited to announce two key initiatives for the upcoming season to support our players and encourage a positive playing environment.

The Respectful Athlete Course

This season, all U13 teams will be participating in **The Respectful Athlete** online course, a program designed to help young athletes understand the importance of respect in sport. Following its successful implementation for U13 - U18 teams last year, we are excited to extend this course to our current U13 players. We are also proud to share that the Calgary Raiders Hockey Club recorded the fewest infractions for Rule 11.4 (Discrimination/ Maltreatment) amongst all Hockey Calgary associations last season, underscoring our commitment to maintaining a respectful and safe environment.

The Respectful Athlete course helps athletes gain a deeper understanding of both acceptable and unacceptable attitudes and behaviours, while providing practical tools to support a culture of inclusivity and respect within their teams. More information about the course will be provided to Team Managers and Head Coaches, as teams will be working through this course together. For more details on this course please visit [The Respectful Athlete](#).

Online Safety Education & Overall Player Well-being

For our U13 to U18 teams, we are exploring educational opportunities to raise awareness about the risks associated with online behavior, particularly on social media. The goal is to help athletes understand how their digital actions can impact both their present and future opportunities, including eligibility for elite hockey divisions and beyond, post-secondary education, scholarships, and even future employment. Our commitment goes beyond developing on-ice skills; we aim to equip players with the knowledge and tools to navigate both online and offline spaces safely and responsibly.

In addition, we are working to create learning opportunities for both parents/guardians and players, focusing on supporting overall player well-being. We hope to be able to offer a parent series where we will bring in professionals to provide guidance on mental health, mindset, and navigating the unique challenges young athletes face.

These initiatives are part of our ongoing effort to foster a respectful, supportive culture for all our athletes. Stay tuned for more information on this initiative. ***If you have interest in working with us to support these initiatives please feel free to reach out to Nancy Lisi at vp-safety@raidershc.ca.***



PLAYER DEVELOPMENT NEWS

RAIDERS COACHING SUMMIT

Raiders Hockey is excited to hold a Raiders Coaching Summit before the Christmas Break. Keep an eye out for Guest Speaker(s), Topics of Discussion and more. Details will become available soon. Coaches are asked to please check your emails over the coming weeks for news on this night.

ON-ICE DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS

Raiders practices with our On-Ice partners, P3 Sports (U7/U9), Duncan Hockey (U11/U13) and Dynamite Hockey (Boxing) (U15/U18) are commencing in mid-November as booked by the Raiders Ice Scheduler.

Head coaches, as your sessions with our on-ice partners near, look for an email from *Raiders Player Development*. These emails will support you in connecting with your On-Ice development partner, design a practice plan that meets your team's needs, and utilize the expertise and experience of these great On-Ice resources. On-Ice development sessions will continue throughout the season providing plenty of opportunity to continue each team's growth and advancement.

OFF-ICE DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS

Raiders Teams Managers/Coaches, Keep the Off-Ice development team building going strong and continue to book some future sessions with KidStrong Symons Valley (U7, U9 and U11) and Dynamite Boxing (U13, U15 and U18). Having a close knit group of energized, healthy kids helps to create a building block for team success on and off the ice.

HOCKEY KIDS HELPING KIDS

Hockey Kids Helping Kids – Supporting the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation Hockey Kids Helping Kids, in partnership with Hockey Calgary and the Calgary Flames Foundation, is back to support the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation, with a special tribute to Johnny Gaudreau.

Teams are encouraged to raise funds for new technology, research, and programs at the hospital. Top fundraising teams will win exciting prizes, including a Calgary Flames practice at the Saddledome (Jan 3), a Hitmen game experience (Jan 10), and more.



Every dollar counts—if 100 teams raise \$100 each, that's \$10,000 to support sick and injured children in Calgary. [Click for details.](#)



HOCKEY CALGARY COACH OF THE MONTH

We know how much of a difference our coaches make in shaping the lives of our players both on and off the ice. Whether it's the time they dedicate, the guidance they provide, or the inspiration they offer, these individuals are at the heart of our Raiders community.

As part of an exciting initiative with **Hockey Calgary**, **Original 16**, and the **Calgary Wranglers**, we encourage you to nominate a Raiders coach who goes above and beyond in supporting our youth hockey programs. Let's take the opportunity to recognize those who are making a real impact in our players' lives! Check out the details below for how you can submit your nomination.



COACH OF THE MONTH AWARD

Original 16 celebrates things done well, and that's why we've teamed up with Hockey Calgary and the Calgary Wranglers to celebrate and recognize adult coaches who are making an important impact in our community through their support of youth hockey programs. Each month one Coach of the Month will be selected from Hockey Calgary's 18 member associations to recognize the vital role they play in strengthening our community by guiding, inspiring and enabling players to achieve in sport and in life. In recognition of the important work that they do, each Coach of the Month will receive:

- A pair of tickets to Wranglers Fan Appreciation Night Game on Sunday, April 20th
- An invitation to an exclusive Wranglers coaching event where they will get to watch a live practice from the bench, and get up close and personal with Wranglers coaching staff
- A swag bag of Original 16 goodies
- A social post recognizing their contributions on the Wranglers, Original 16 and Hockey Calgary Instagram pages

Nominations for the Coach of the Month are open throughout the entire season and one winner will be selected by Hockey Calgary each month.

Deadline for nominations: February 25, 2025

[CLICK TO NOMINATE A COACH TODAY!](#)



RAIDERS 3RD JERSEY: COMING SOON

Exciting news – the Raiders' THIRD JERSEY is almost here! Managers will soon receive details on how to order this new third jersey for your team – should you choose to do so. The new association third jersey will be available for purchase by teams across all age divisions. However, please note that the U18 vintage purple and gold third jersey, unveiled last year, will remain exclusive to the U18 team. Team Managers will soon receive information and instructions to order the 3rd jersey.



DISCOUNTS & SPECIAL OFFERS

Discount Cards were provided to all Team Managers at our Photo Day. Please make sure to check in with them if you have not yet received your discount cards for Pro Hockey Life and Adrenalin.

Pro Hockey Life Player's Pass:

15% off discount for your next 3 purchases AND 5 FREE skate sharpenings.

Adrenalin Source for Sports (Northland):

One coupon per family offering **\$50 OFF** any purchase of \$250 or more between now and December 15th at Adrenalin Source for Sports Northland.



NEW PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT CRHC Announces Partnership with Docbraces Calgary

"The Official Mouthguard of the Calgary Raiders Hockey Club"

The Calgary Raiders Hockey Club is excited to announce our new partnership with Docbraces Calgary. Through this collaboration, not only will all Calgary Raiders players receive a 5% discount at Docbraces, BUT all Calgary Raiders players will have the opportunity to receive a custom-fitted mouth guard at no cost. Team Managers will be contacted directly to coordinate bookings for any interested players. Stay tuned for upcoming clinic dates and additional details.



docbraces



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