



# RAIDERS HOCKEY

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

[www.raidershc.ca](http://www.raidershc.ca)

#WEARERAIDERNATION

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we head into December the Board of Directors would like to extend our warmest wishes to our Raiders families this holiday season, and all of the best in the New Year. We hope that you are all able to spend time with your families, friends, and teammates. Enjoy the Winter Break and good luck in any tournaments that your teams may have. HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

The regular season will resume January 3rd, 2025, and Esso Minor Hockey Week (EMHW) commences on January 10th, 2025. We would like to wish all our teams the best of luck this year in EMHW, and we hope that everyone has fun, celebrates some wins, and brings home some banners!

## Frequently Asked Questions with Esso Minor Hockey Week:

*Do the EMHW games count towards our regular season standings?*

The first game of EMHW is the first game of the tournament but is also considered a regular season game and it will count towards your regular season standings. All subsequent games after game 1 are tournament games.

*What happens if there is a tie at the end of the game?*

If after regulation time a non-championship game remains tied, the teams will proceed to a shootout. During a championship game, if the score is tied at the end of regulation, a three-minute, 3-on-3, sudden victory overtime period shall be played.

*What happens if the referees don't show up?*

In the unlikely event that referees do not show up during EMHW, Hockey Calgary asks that coaches bring their skates, helmets, and a whistle to the game to step in as an emergency referee. Please note that this is only permitted during EMHW and City Championships in the event of an emergency, not for any other sanctioned games throughout the year.

*If our team is successful and wins the championship game what does our team win?*

Hockey Calgary provides all EMHW Champions with a banner, a medal, and the opportunity to purchase a EMHW Championship Hoodie through Hockey Calgary if they chose.

The Esso Minor Hockey Week website is the best place for all tournament information, and we encourage everyone to use it frequently throughout the week. The schedule and rules can be found [HERE](#).

Good luck, play hard and have fun!

Leslie



# RAIDER NATION NEWS

## VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

### Raiders Christmas Community Challenge

For the month of December, we're doing something a little different. Instead of spotlighting just one volunteer, we are thrilled to focus on the incredible collective efforts made through our **Christmas Community Challenge**.

Keep an eye out for our **Special Edition Newsletter**, coming your way in the next few days, where we will highlight the remarkable contributions made by all involved.

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the teams who answered the call to action. Your dedication of time, effort, and resources has had a profound impact, helping spread joy and kindness throughout our community this holiday season. Whether through organizing events, contributing donations, or offering hands-on support, your collective efforts have made a real difference.

Congratulations to each and every team who participated in the Christmas Community Challenge – you are ALL our **Volunteer of the Month!** Your teamwork, generosity, and commitment are truly inspiring, and we could not be more proud to celebrate you. Thank you for embodying the true spirit of giving and making this holiday season brighter for so many!



## RAIDER OF THE MONTH IN LOVING MEMORY OF SAMUEL NLEYA

October 18, 2007 - November 21, 2024

On Thursday, November 21, 2024 the Raiders tragically lost a U18 player. As you read through this please take a moment to honour our fallen teammate, mentor, and friend.

Samuel Nleya (Sam to his hockey team) was the Assistant Captain for the U18 NBC 2 Black team. After being born in Calgary, Sam's passion for hockey started in 2009, when his family moved to Fort McMurray. He learned how to skate and play the game which he quickly fell in love with; as we all have. Hockey was a big part of Samuel's life. In addition to being a Raider, Sam was a referee, a skating coach and mentor to younger children at Vivo, and worked at the Saddledome for many Flames games and other events. When Sam was 16 years old, he was the recipient of a government grant to facilitate, organize and lead a program in the off-season to teach players of colour how to skate and play hockey. A remarkable accomplishment for a 16 year old.

The dedication, commitment, and passion that Sam had towards our game speaks volumes towards the person that he was. Sam was a leader, a goal achiever, and a student who had a brilliant mind. His legacy will live on in all the people that his life touched including his previous teammates, his current team, his coaches, and anyone that had the privilege of knowing him.

Rest in peace Samuel and thank you for all that you brought to Simons Valley, the Raiders and the game of hockey. You will be greatly missed.

*in  
loving  
memory*



# RAIDER NATION NEWS

## RAIDERS INTRODUCTION TO HOCKEY PROGRAM

Raiders Hockey Club is proud to partner with **Hockey Calgary, Flames Foundation**, and our two **Source for Sports** retail outlets to run our Introduction to Hockey Program. The **8-week hockey program** will be open to players who are trying hockey for the first time or have minimal skating and hockey experience.

Each ice time balances skating skills with activity-based games to help players build the skills needed to enjoy hockey as a lifelong sport! The program is designed for **players born between 2020-2016** who wish to develop develop basic hockey skills, have some fun, and experience success in a full-time hockey program.

The Raiders Introduction to Hockey Program will feature Raiders Hockey and other Certified Hockey Coaches and each player will receive a custom Raiders jersey with hockey socks.

### PROGRAM COST:

- \$200.00 (includes 8 ice sessions, 9 hours total)
- Open to those families living in the Raiders designated communities.



### PROGRAM DATES:

- Sundays, January 19th, 26th, Feb 2nd and 9th (No Family Day Sunday)
  - 1 hour sessions held at Crowfoot Arena, 8080 John Laurie Blvd. NW.
- Sundays, February 23rd, March 2nd, 9th and 16th
  - 75-minute sessions will be held at VIVO, 11950 Country Village Link NE.

### REGISTRATION LINK

You will be prompted to choose one of these Groups:

#### Group 1

Noon to 1:00 pm (First 4 sessions at Crowfoot Arena)  
Noon to 1:15 pm (Last 4 sessions at VIVO)

#### Group 2

1:15 to 2:15 pm (First 4 sessions at Crowfoot Arena)  
1:30 to 2:45 pm (Last 4 sessions at VIVO)

#### Group 3

2:30 to 3:30 pm (First 4 sessions at Crowfoot Arena)  
3:00 to 4:15 pm (Last 4 sessions at VIVO)



# RAIDER NATION NEWS

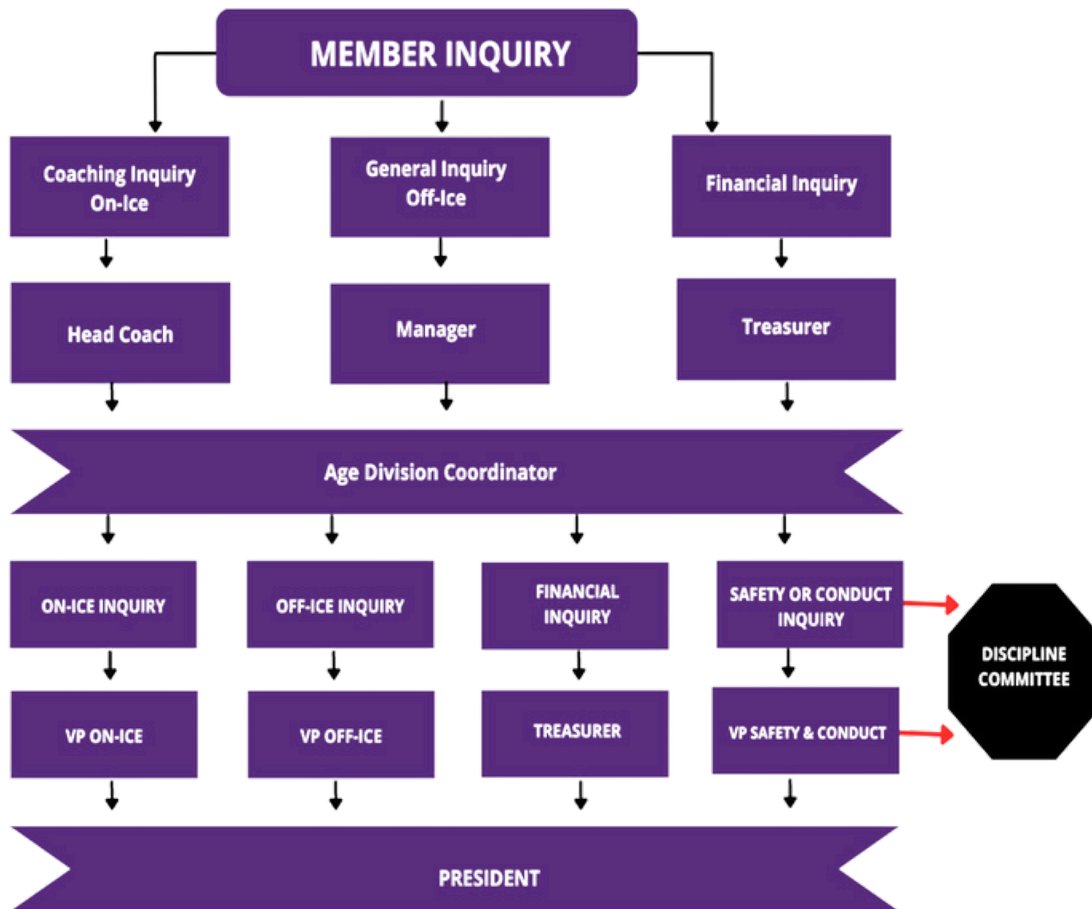
## CRHC COMMUNICATION PROCESS

At CRHC, clear and open communication is crucial to ensuring that our association runs smoothly and that all members feel supported. Our primary modes of communication include our **website, newsletter, email notices, and social media**. These platforms keep our members up-to-date and engaged with the latest news, events, and updates.

While we always hope for a smooth and conflict-free season, we recognize that concerns or issues may arise. In those instances, it is important to know how we handle and address these concerns. The CRHC follows a clear communication process aligned with the guidelines set by Hockey Calgary (see below).

We want to emphasize that communication is not only about addressing issues, but also about staying connected with the association, seeking support and guidance, and asking questions whenever necessary. Clear communication allows us to identify areas where support may be needed, track ongoing concerns, and ensure everyone receives the appropriate resources and assistance.

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to our directors and coordinators.



# PLAYER DEVELOPMENT NEWS

## Coaching Summit

The Raiders Hockey Club will be hosting a Coaching Summit on **Thursday January 23rd, 2025**. Mike Kennedy from P3 Sports will be the guest speaker and the evening promises to be full of discussion and engagement for all attendees.

Head Coaches, please watch your email inbox in the New Year for the session sign-up details. This Summit will allow for 2 coaches per team to attend and food and beverage will be provided!



## Raiders Spring Development Camps

The Raiders Spring Development Camps (U9 to U13 age divisions) will be taking place from April through June 2025. Details regarding the camps are being finalized and more information on this year's program will be released in the new year.

*From the entire Raiders Player Development team, we wish you all a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and a Safe Holiday Season!*

**GO RAIDERS!**

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## U13: The Respectful Athlete Course

Last year, the Raiders Hockey Club launched an initiative where all U13-U18 teams participated in The Respectful Athlete course as a team. This educational program is designed to promote good sportsmanship, respectful behavior, and positive values both on and off the ice. As mentioned in our previous newsletter, the Raiders Hockey Club remains committed to fostering a safe and inclusive environment in hockey. We are asking all U13 teams to continue with this initiative and take the course together as a team this season.

The course covers important topics such as respect for others, fair play, conflict resolution, safety and inclusion, and anti-bullying and harassment. By completing the Respectful Athlete course, participants gain the knowledge and tools necessary to positively contribute to the sport, ensuring that everyone involved can enjoy the game in a respectful and supportive atmosphere.

Head Coaches and Team Managers are reminded to arrange for their teams to engage in this course collectively, ideally **before the end of January**, to ensure the teachings have the greatest impact this season. Once completed, please send the receipt to [vp-safety@raidershc.ca](mailto:vp-safety@raidershc.ca) and Lynne Cook at [administrator1@raidershc.ca](mailto:administrator1@raidershc.ca).



# RAIDER NATION TOURNAMENTS

## ASSOCIATION TOURNAMENTS UPDATES

Our association tournaments have become a highlight of the season, showcasing the talent and dedication of our players, while providing a valuable opportunity to celebrate our hockey community. These events not only shine a spotlight on our players but they showcase the strength of teamwork and the commitment of those that volunteer their time to make such events happen. For our teams, a nice bonus is that the tournaments provide reciprocal tournament opportunities for teams and sometimes, depending on the collective efforts of the age division volunteers, a tournament may be profitable and add to the fundraising efforts of the teams.

The **U9 Raid the Rink Tournament**, was our first association tournament this season, held November 21-23. The event brought together talented teams and raised approximately \$600 for each U9 Raiders team, providing a little financial boost for them. A huge thank you to all the U9 team tournament coordinators for their dedication, and to Cathy Desbiens for her help with initial planning and support throughout. Special recognition goes to Jessica Buzanko, U9 Division Coordinator, for ensuring everything ran smoothly. MUCH thanks goes out to our very own Lynne Cook for her work reconciling finances and AGLA accounts - She is always there to pick up pieces for us and we appreciate her so very much!

The **U13 Raid the Rink Tournament**, hosted from November 28 to December 1, saw 24 teams and over 500 attendees participated in our tournament. The hard work of the tournament volunteers raised enough for each U13 team to pocket over \$850 - wonderful Christmas bonus. A huge thank you to Sarah Antony, U13 Division and Tournament Coordinator, for her exceptional leadership and for ensuring everything went smoothly. Sarah is also our ice scheduler and supports all association tournaments. We also want to recognize all the U13 team coordinators for their hard work and dedication. Special thanks go to Jennifer Pugh and Heather Cahill for their efforts in securing swag, organizing raffles, silent auctions, and securing a Body Armor drink sponsorship! Heather is also responsible for securing swag and medals for all our tournaments and always does a fantastic job of this!

The **U7 Raiders Future Stars Tournament**, held from December 13-15, marked an exciting milestone for many of our young players as it was most likely the first-ever hockey tournament for our Junior Timbits. This experience could not have taken place without the efforts of Kira Moore, who spent hours organizing and planning, and the team tournament coordinators working alongside her. Working behind the scenes and offering support was again, Jessica Buzanko, U7 Division Coordinator. Future Stars is a long standing and magical experience - the joy and the excitement coming from this tournament is infectious.

Finally, thank you to Curtis Calafatis, Director at Large, for serving as the Board Tournament Liaison, overseeing all association tournaments this season. Tournaments are no easy feat - as we know Curtis would attest to, and we appreciate him taking on tournaments as part of his director portfolio.

The dedication of our volunteers across all these tournaments is crucial to their success, and we are incredibly grateful for everyone involved. We look forward to one more association tournament this season, and the one that has the largest impact the Kids Cancer Care Tournament!





# RAIDER NATION TOURNAMENTS

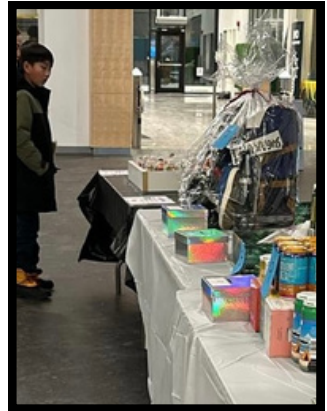
## Moments from the Ug Raid the Rink Tournament

We are excited to share a glimpse into the incredible moments captured during our association tournaments. These images truly showcase the spirit of our community. These memories we've made together, and document the fun, teamwork, and passion that makes minor hockey so special and important in our lives.



# RAIDER NATION TOURNAMENTS

## Highlights from U13 Raid the Rink Tournament



# RAIDER NATION TOURNAMENTS

## U7 Raider Future Stars Tournament Highlights



## U15 Stick it to Kids Cancer - Coming Soon

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.



[www.raidershc.ca](http://www.raidershc.ca)



[Raiders Contacts](#)

