

It's the most wonderful time of the year. Hockey season is back...and the kids are going back to school too.

We are really excited to begin our 50th Anniversary season with all our St. Matthew families. Here are a few significant changes to look forward to this season.

50th Anniversary:

We are celebrating a significant milestone; providing 50 years of quality House Hockey Programming in Edmonton as part of the KC family. St. Matthew was started in 1969 and is still going strong today. Planning for a 50th Anniversary party in the Spring has already begun and we welcome any interested families to contact us to get involved in the planning committee.

Conditioning Camps:

We introduced Novice, Atom and Pee wee conditioning camps this month. We are absolutely delighted with the response; every single camp sold out! Feedback would be very appreciated as we look to expand on this idea next August.

Discovery, Jr. Timbits and Senior Timbits news:

We are waiting for Hockey Edmonton to finalize the schedule and then we will be able to send that out to you all. The Timbit program typically begins their regular season in October, although we are planning to provide some practice ice in September as well. We know these kids must be itching to get on the ice.

Novice, Atom and Pee wee evaluations:

We appreciate that the evaluation process can be a stressful and frustrating time for many hockey families. To remove all potential concerns, we have made some changes to how players will be evaluated. Our goal in making these changes is to promote a fair and open process.

The first open group skates (not evaluated skates) will begin on Tuesday, September 3, and player evaluations will begin on Saturday, September 7.

Player evaluations will consist of one Player skills session, one Goalie skills session, and three scrimmages. For the skills session, all players will perform the same three timed drills, with minor variations for the older groups, while goalies will perform four goalie specific drills during their session.

The Goalie and Player evaluation process will be overseen by Filipowski Hockey. Kevin Filipowski, along with his team, bring extensive experience and will provide our category directors with a complete assessment of each player and goalie that will

ultimately form the basis for team selection from novice to peewee.

Group skate and Evaluation schedules are being finalized and will be posted to our website by Wednesday, August 28. The evaluation process, including a full bio of Kevin and his team, will also be posted to the website. The group skates will introduce each player to the drills that will be used during the skills session, so please ensure your player attends at least one of the group skates so that they will be familiar with the drills when participating in the timed session. Please continue to visit our website and follow us on social media for regular updates.

St. Matthew coaches will be on the ice during the process, but only to assist in the organization and execution of the skills session and scrimmages. No coaching will be provided during the evaluation process at the request of the evaluators. We also must ask that no parent approaches Kevin or his team during the process and ask that you direct any questions or concerns to our category directors who will be present for the duration of evaluations.

Thank you to all parents, coaches and dedicated volunteers, for the tremendous contributions you make during the hockey season. We look forward to reconnecting with you over the season and wish you and your families an enjoyable and successful hockey experience.

Sincerely,

Andrew Westervelt
President
St. Matthew Hockey Club