

Fort McMurray Minor Hockey Association (FMMHA) On-Ice Helpers

Players, registered with FMMHA, used as on-ice helpers in practices can provide valuable assistance to coaches in running efficient and effective practices, particularly if a team is short of coaches. The opportunity also provides valuable experience to the FMMHA player-helper in providing service to the community and acting as a role model to younger players, both of which are objectives of FMMHA. However, FMMHA players, acting as on-ice helpers, also present risks to the safety of the players on the ice and the helper themselves, which have to be managed.

Coaches are reminded that if they are having difficulty providing enough coaches to run an efficient and effective practice, that they may contact their Division Director who will assist them in providing additional coaching resources. Utilization of additional certified adult coaches is more beneficial to the players' skill development than helpers and is preferred over the use of helpers.

To manage these risks, but still permit the use of on-ice FMMHA player-helpers, FMMHA has developed the following requirements.

1. Adults, not listed as a team official on the team roster registered with Hockey Canada, or not listed as a certified coach on another FMMHA team, may not assist as helpers on the ice at practices.
2. Certified FMMHA coaches, may be on the ice for practice with a team that is not the team which they are registered on as a coach on the Hockey Canada Register (i.e. a certified coach, registered with one FMMHA team, may run a practice or assist with a practice for another FMMHA team if that teams' coaches are not available or they have asked the other coach for assistance).
3. Helpers, registered as players in FMMHA, may assist registered coaches in practices, subject to the approval of the FMMHA President.
4. Helpers, when assisting registered coaches, must wear the full hockey equipment that they would normally wear in their own games and practices, including a CSA approved helmet with full cage and a neck guard.
5. Helpers may assist coaches with demonstration of individual skill drills, move pucks around to prepare for drills and pass pucks to players during drills.
6. Helpers will not demonstrate individual tactics (e.g. angling) or team tactics drills (e.g. fore-checking), or participate in drills, scrimmages or shootouts.
7. Helpers will not provide instruction to players; instruction is only to be provided to players by a certified coach.
8. Helpers will be at least one division in age higher than the players on the ice; helpers playing in the same division as the players on the ice, or playing in a younger division, are not permitted on the ice.
9. Male helpers are not permitted for Female Teams' practices.
10. Use of a helper requires the FMMHA President's approval, prior to the helper being on the ice. The requesting team's head coach must submit, prior to using the helper, details of the helper's role to the President including: equipment the helper will be wearing, the helper's name, current team and current division and the tasks the helper will be assisting the coach with. This request may be made in writing to the FMMHA President.