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Date: August 5, 2009

Subject: Rep Program 2009/2010

From: Andrew Holenchuk, Rep Program Governer

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all players and parents to the 2009/2010 season for the Victoria Ice Hawks Representative program. It is with great pride that we look forward to the upcoming season and the many great opportunities for our players and their families. We completed the 2008/2009 season with many success stories within the program as the association continues to strive to offer the most complete program available to players. There were championship banners won by two of our 4 Rep teams this past season and we look to build on that success moving forward into the 2009/2010 season. The cornerstone of the program is our commitment to individual player development as shown by our spring, summer and in-season development programs. We are proud to offer these comprehensive training programs to our players on a cost recovery basis and with these programs being in effect year round both in an on ice and off ice component, it allows our players to be exposed to the most complete high performance training program on Vancouver Island. The in season portion of the development program will be enhanced again this season in an effort to provide our individual team coaching staff with game ready players at all levels. This program also follows the belief that more frequent, but shorter higher intensity practice sessions will have a much stronger benefit for the players than less frequent longer practice slots. These development programs continue to grow and with it the skill level of our players improves at an exponential rate. The 2009/2010 season started in April with our initial round of Rep tryouts as we moved to a new system of picking the players for the Rep program. With the summer training season coming to a close, we now look forward to our final phase of Rep tryouts during the last week of August and right into the exhibition game portion of the season with the final player selections happening following the final phase of tryouts.

With our program we are pleased to welcome two new teams to our program, that being the Bantam A Female and Peewee A Female teams. These teams will also draw players from other local associations that do not have teams in category and they will join our other Rep teams. In addition we are pleased to announce that our Novice D program will be run under the Rep program offering our advanced Novice players a chance to take part in the program. There has been many questions about whether or not we offer A2/B teams in category and the quick answer is that those decisions are made following the A team tryouts in that if there is enough players at an appropriate skill level, then a decision to ice the team will be made.

The upcoming season will also see our Rep teams host additional tournaments in an effort to keep the travel of the teams to a minimum and build Victoria Minor as a solid place for competitive teams to travel to in order to compete in tournaments at all levels. Our Rep teams will also begin to see a change to their uniforms as the program continues to evolve. The Rep teams will begin to see the new road Jersey that will be modeled after our popular spring team jersey. In addition, the Rep teams will transition to the new RBK Edge game socks as part of the uniform along with our continued red equipment program being in effect for the players.

In closing, I would like to thank all of those people that contribute to our program and make it the success that it is and will continue to be moving forward. It has grown in such a positive manner over just a few short years and is due to the commitment of the players, parents, volunteers, coaches and executive members that have put countless hours into the building of the most complete program on Vancouver Island!

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