



HOCKEY CALGARY

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

HOCKEY CALGARY ANNOUNCES THE INTRODUCTION OF RECERTIFICATION FOR THE RESPECT IN SPORT PARENT PROGRAM FOR FAMILIES WITHIN HOCKEY CALGARY

CALGARY, AB – Hockey Calgary in partnership with The Respect Group announced today the plans to introduce a recertification process for the ‘Respect In Sport Parent Program’.

In 2010, Hockey Calgary was the first minor hockey association to introduce a mandatory online Respect in Sport course, requiring at least one parent from each household of hockey-playing children to obtain their Respect in Sport certification. The certification is compulsory for enrollment in a Hockey Calgary program.

In 2014, Hockey Calgary partnered with Mount Royal University (MRU), to study the implementation of this program and the impact it had on behavior in the overall minor hockey program. Research findings from the study can be found here -

<https://www.hockeycalgary.ca/page/index/id/340/>

Since 2014 Hockey Calgary has reviewed the findings of the MRU study and worked with both the HC Board and members of the associations under the Hockey Calgary umbrella to determine what was the right strategy to move forward with.

Today, Hockey Calgary announced that we will be once again be leading the way, and **Introducing the Recertification of Respect in Sport Parent Program for parents of all players within the Hockey Calgary program**

- Recertification will be required every 4 years beginning in the 2017-18 season
- This means that anybody having taken the course prior to 2014 will be required to recertify for the upcoming season
- The recertification process will be activated on May 1, 2017, and those required to recertify will need to do so prior to registering for the 2017-18 season

‘Hockey Calgary believes in ‘Continuing Education’, this program was never designed to be a ‘one and done’, and we believe that part of our role as leaders in hockey is to continually educate our members and promote positive behaviors in the hockey environment.’ stated Hockey Calgary Executive Director, Kevin Kobelka



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He went on to further say ‘this decision is not in response, to increased poor behavior, but is an effort to educate. The Respect in Sport program has changed dramatically since its inception in 2010, there is much more education in the areas of

- Concussion management
- Cyber Bullying
- And Long Term Athlete Development, just to name a few
- It has evolved to be much more than just about influencing behavior within the arena, and it speaks to many social issues are young athletes are faced with.’

Hockey Calgary was the first organization in Canada to implement, and make mandatory, the RIS Program, which has now been implemented by several other Canadian Cities and provinces, including Hockey Alberta.

“It is with great pride that I congratulate Hockey Calgary on once again being leaders, through their decision recertify the Respect in Sport Parent Program. Not only were they the first organization to make the program available but that leadership has led to the certification of over 300,000 Canadian parents who are now equipped with tools to make them even better sport parents” said Sheldon Kennedy, co-founder, Respect Group Inc.

Respect in Sport encourages positive behaviors from parents, players, coaches and referees, while maintaining a safe environment for everyone involved.

Social Media Outlets:

Hockey Calgary

Twitter/Instagram/Facebook: @HockeyCalgary (*Full Press Conference available on Twitter*)

Respect Group

Twitter/Instagram/Facebook: @respectgroup /@respectgroupinc/ Respect Group

-30-

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