

Carstairs Minor Hockey Association

Box 773 Carstairs Alberta
TOM ONO



Didsbury Arena Repairs

As I am sure you have all heard by now, the Town of Didsbury announced yesterday, December 19th 2024, that the Didsbury Arena is expected to be closed for the duration of the season due to an ammonia leak in their ice plant that requires replacement. This is obviously devastating news for our friends and partners in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Association that use the Didsbury Arena as their home.

At the onset, if your team is scheduled to play in Didsbury at any point before the end of the season, please be aware that this will change and please be patient with Didsbury Minor Hockey to give them time to make those necessary arrangements.

As partners, the Carstairs Minor Hockey Association has reviewed all options that we can offer to both the Didsbury Minor Hockey Association and the Renegades Minor Hockey Association to ease the difficulty that they will have to conduct their operations for the remainder of the 2024/25 season. Although our priority will always be to ensure that our operations are handled, we fully recognize that if the tables were turned, we would rely heavily on our relationships in the RMAA to make it work. As such, we have offered the following, which we respect will have an impact on every team in our Association:

Didsbury Minor Hockey Association

We have offered to Didsbury Minor Hockey to:

- 1) Have their U7 teams utilize 1/3 of the ice during our U7 practices (Tuesdays and Thursday 4:15pm to 5:05pm);
- 2) Have their U7 and/or U9 teams utilize the other half of the ice on weekends for game slots when it is not required for CMHA operations. I recognize this will mostly impact our U9 teams that have become accustomed to being able to use 2/3 of the ice and both benches for games, but it does provide a lot of additional ice opportunities for Didsbury.
- 3) Have first right of refusal for any ice that Carstairs Minor Hockey does not require and would otherwise turn back to the Town of Carstairs.

Renegades Minor Hockey Association

We have offered to the Renegades Minor Hockey Association to:

- 1) Use the timeslot of 8:00 pm – 8:30 pm on Thursdays for their own practice time. This will allow them to combine the additional 30 minutes with their existing ice blocks to facilitate additional practices.

This impact will be felt by our U11 teams that traditionally get 4 – 30 minute full ice slots every three weeks. This will now be reduced to 2 – 30 minute full ice slots every three weeks.

- 2) Have second right of refusal for any ice that Carstairs Minor Hockey does not require and would otherwise turn back to the Town.

Both of these Associations are working through their various options at this point and we will have final confirmation in the coming days as to the exact changes. We will likely see some of these

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transitions begin this weekend. Again, I reiterate that none of this is ideal, but also know that losing your home ice surface for 3 months and having to be scattered around Central Alberta for practices is not ideal either. This is a fluid situation that will inevitably have more information and final decisions made in the coming days. We still have a lot of things to work out such as billing, referee scheduling etc, so for the time being, I ask for your patience and understanding.

Regardless, I know that our families will be great hosts to our neighbors to the North and will help me welcome the Didsbury Minor Hockey Association, in whatever capacity they end up needing, to our home.

If you get lucky and this is actually the last time you hear from me before Christmas, Merry Christmas!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Atchison", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Christofer Atchison
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