

The Pond Hockey Parallel with Inline Hockey

- Whenever you hear the many NHL "superstars" talk about their beginnings in hockey, it is rarely about all the travel hockey, tournaments, stats, and wins/losses.
- The common denominator with all of these players is the fun of learning to play and enjoy the game of hockey on an outdoor pond.
- It was a pond where you played with your school friends and neighborhood friends of all different ages and skill levels. Where creativity was practiced and encouraged and scoring stats were never recorded!
- The winners were determined by the last goal before heading home for lunch or supper.
- These pond days have almost disappeared across Canada, due to climate changes, development of other minor sports and increased number of extra-curricular opportunities for kids and other societal dynamics. Pond Hockey has now been replaced by organized, structured "play" for our children, with more rules, regulations, by-laws and restrictions than we could have ever imagined.
- These rules, regulations and by-laws now restrict our children from playing with friends and schoolmates more often than not. Politics now dictate every community with a rink and contributes to diminishing enrolment for minor sports!
- Inline Hockey is the new millennium's answer to pond hockey. The game provides opportunity for creativity and skill development, without intimidation and aggression.
- CIHA has the basic "Principle" that we will promote and encourage to all our member leagues "operate with common sense management". Do not prohibit players from playing with friends, just because they have different skill levels.
- CIHA will encourage leagues to operate without emphasis on scoring stats.
- CIHA through the FUN First Program, will encourage and promote a game that players and teams are rewarded for positive life skills being practiced during participation of inline hockey, such as ... sportsmanship, respect, compassion, loyalty, and a sense of community spirit.

"Lessons Will be Remembered Long After Scores are Forgotten"

Inline Hockey.... Just another Form of Hockey!

- In many cases across Canada today, inline skating is a child's first skating experience, because most kids will inline skate before ice-skate.
- Learning to inline skate is much easier than learning to ice-skate. Inline skating can be practiced at school yards, parking lots, driveways and streets under an environment that is not structured nor intimidating.
- Hockey comes in all different forms:
 - Boys minor hockey
 - Girls minor hockey
 - Junior hockey
 - International hockey
 - NHL
 - European hockey
 - INLINE HOCKEY
- The basic skills are the same no matter what form of hockey you play, but it is the "personality" or "culture" of the game that distinguishes each of these forms apart from one another.
- It is the Inline Hockey "Personality & Culture" that we at CIHA want our member leagues to promote and embrace for our players, coaches and parents.