

## 2025-2026 Redcliff Minor Hockey Registrar/Scheduler Report

Our 25/26 Redcliff Minor Hockey season I personally view as a success from an operational, efficiency and growth perspective as an association.

Redcliff had 175 players total registered in the earliest part of the season, eventually losing 14 players who made Medicine Hat elite teams in AAA/AA, and an additional 10 players were lost due to families moving out of town or players who had unfortunately quit early in the season. We finished the season with 151 registered players in our association.

Our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Learn to Play/Learn to Skate program which I coordinated hit a new milestone in 2025 with 34 new players and hockey families participating in the various development activities it provides. I am so proud of this program and how far it has come from year 1, including the support and addition of the “Lions Club Big Assist” program which helps to provide equipment for 5-10 new players every season!

I was honored to receive Hockey Alberta’s Volunteer of the Year award in early August, and I appreciate not only the nomination and win, but also the variety of fantastic volunteers I get to work with every season to provide opportunities in hockey for our young players in the community and our surrounding area. Thank you again everyone, I truly do appreciate it a lot!

A new initiative we worked on just prior to the start of this past season was our “Redcliff Grizzlies Junior Coach Program,” which was created to help to develop youth leadership and mentorship in our association and community.

With this new program, some of our registered youth players who have a passion for leadership, were provided with the opportunity to go out and coach/mentor our younger Grizzlies teams and divisions. While we had a few hiccups and challenges in the initial setup and collaboration, I see this program as having great potential for our association, and the opportunity to create a lot of special experiences in the future for our oldest Grizzlies players to lead by example and become community leaders.

In early September our association unfortunately lost our ice scheduler and referee association liaison who, due to work commitments, was unable to continue. I stepped in to help in this task and, well, 182 games, 6 tournaments and well over 600 hours of ice scheduling later... I think I’ve got the hang of it! Haha

We learned some very important things in my first year back doing ice scheduling again for RMHA, we need to focus on added weekend ice for U7/U9 during tournaments, we needed to book our tournament ice early to ensure referees and not changing weekends, we’ll need to improve our U7/U9 collaboration with Medicine Hat, we’ll need more weekday ice because of adding a U16 program, and we’ll need to work with CAHL to create a more efficient and balanced schedule for the first and second half of our seasons... including creating a “Hockey Day in Redcliff” in early December to feature all of our minor hockey teams playing at home!

Looking forward to a great season in 2026-27,

Derek Martin  
Redcliff Minor Hockey