

Program Application

Bauer and Hockey Canada are pleased to offer Minor Hockey Associations across Canada an opportunity to host THE BIG ASSIST in their community for the 2014-15 season. In order to be considered, please review the criteria below and submit a copy of the completed application to bauerbigassist@hockeycanada.ca by **July 11th**.

PROGRAM PARAMETERS

THE BIG ASSIST is comprised of three main components:

- **Welcome Event:** Executed by Bauer & Hockey Canada, this is an opportunity to engage new families into the community and fit participants with head-to-toe gear.
- **On-Ice Trial:** 6-weeks, 1 session/week offered at a consistent day/time for \$199* (taxes included). At the conclusion of the program, participants are gifted the equipment for future use.
- **Transition Program:** Intended to provide families a path forward within the Association. While the specifics of this offering may vary slightly by Association, parameters should fall in line with The Big Assist (time commitment, consistent session day & time, cost, etc.), but provide participants with more advanced programming (i.e. 3-on-3 play).

** Registration Fee to offset program costs incurred by Bauer & Hockey Canada.*

SELECTION CRITERIA

Minor Hockey Associations applying for THE BIG ASSIST must meet the following criteria:

- Commitment to new program offerings, including THE BIG ASSIST.
- Year 1 Ice Requirement: Two blocks of 6 successive ice sessions on the same day of the week at the same time each day.
 - i.e. On-Ice Trial Oct 20th - Dec 1st, with Transition Program Jan 5th - Feb 16th
- Year 2 Ice Requirement: Minimum of four blocks of 6 successive ice sessions.
- Ability to provide community space for THE BIG ASSIST Welcome Event.
- Commitment to program education (throughout organization).
- Ability to provide resource personnel to support the delivery of THE BIG ASSIST program:
 - Program Administrator
 - On-Ice Lead
 - 4:1 ratio of Participants:Instructors
 - 8 Volunteers (required for Welcome Event, 1 time only)

Program Resource Requirements

THE BIG ASSIST program is designed to ensure a positive experience for new to hockey families. This means breaking down the barriers that exist for many of these parents, and making them feel at home within our hockey community. We want them to experience the game at its best – understanding why so many Canadians feel an inherent love for the sport – and stimulate a desire for continued participation. We want to take away any intimidation as it relates to the equipment and/or rules of the game, remove potential safety concerns and most importantly, give them an experience that’s memorable and fun.

Leadership will be critical to the success of these program objectives.

Given this program is designed for entry level players, instructors and other volunteers should be positive, energetic, creative, fun-loving and above all, patient. Experience teaching hockey is not necessary for all volunteers. But a desire to learn instructional techniques in the delivery of fundamental ice hockey skills is. This must also be coupled with an enthusiastic attitude and desire to work with children.

THREE KEY ROLES

We believe the following roles will prove critical in ensuring the delivery of a successful program:

1. Program Administrator (x1)
2. On-Ice Lead (x1)
3. Instructors (appropriate quantity to ensure 4:1 ratio of Participants:Instructors)

Associations should consider a fresh approach in their recruitment of these volunteers. Pulling current resources from within the organization may not be the best solution for THE BIG ASSIST. But we believe strongly that THE BIG ASSIST program can be a grooming area for Association's future coaches.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

The Program Administrator is directly responsible for overseeing the implementation and delivery for THE BIG ASSIST, inclusive of the Welcome Event, 6-Wk On-Ice Trial & Transition Program.

This position should report directly to the Minor Hockey Association's Board of Directors and will be required to work closely with the On-Ice Lead.

Qualifications include, but are not limited to:

- Possess an understanding of the fundamental elements and established goals of THE BIG ASSIST.
- Possess strong organizational, interpersonal and communication skills.
- Ability to work effectively with various individuals including other volunteers, board members, administrators, instructors and parents.
- Shows enthusiasm working with kids.
- Ability to provide adequate time (8-10 hrs./week) to the delivery of THE BIG ASSIST.

Program Administrator Responsibilities

- Serve as the face of THE BIG ASSIST within the Minor Hockey Association.
- Act as the main point of contact for the Association in planning and executing the Welcome Event.
- Secure an appropriate venue for the Welcome Event.
- Kit and distribute any equipment that is 'backfilled' following the Welcome Event.
- Secure required ice time for the On-Ice Trial and Transition Programs.
- Prepare and implement recruitment procedures for program instructors.
- Coordinate and execute pre-program promotion utilizing materials provided.
- Facilitate registration process for interested families/participants.
- Coordinate THE BIG ASSIST Instructors Clinic in conjunction with the minor hockey association & the branch. Securing location, date/time, necessary AV resources, instructional materials, etc.
- Provide sizing information for Instructors receiving equipment.
- Liaise with the minor hockey association's board, THE BIG ASSIST On-Ice Lead, On-Ice instructors and the parents of the participants.
- Provide program updates – to contain information on the association's Instructor training session, enrolment rates, participant profiles, and participant/parent evaluation – to Bauer.
- Prepare and distribute communication around year 2 opportunities for those graduates of the On-Ice Trail and Transition Programs.
- Provide weekly communication to parents (providing updates from the ice on skills learned, games played, milestones achieved, etc.)

ON-ICE LEAD

This position entails the *facilitation* of THE BIG ASSIST curriculum on ice (inclusive of 6-week Trial & 6-week Transition program). Minimum commitment of 1 season, but ideally this person would serve as an on-ice lead for 2 years.

Qualifications include, but are not limited to:

- Possess a coaching and/or hockey background.
- Experience working with young children.
- Possess strong organizational, interpersonal and communication skills.

On-Ice Lead Responsibilities

- Participate in the Welcome Event, engaging with families and assisting with facilitation of the on-site experience as needed.
- Facilitate delivery of on-ice curriculum as provided by Hockey Canada.
- Manage on-ice Instructors and any additional volunteers.
- Ensure appropriate equipment is available for on-ice sessions.
- Arrive at the ice rink approximately 20 minutes prior to each on-ice session (30 on week #1), and stay approximately 20 minutes after to assist with questions, provide feedback to parents, etc.
- Demonstrate effective leadership on and off the ice.
- Demonstrate necessary risk management skills at all times.
- Serve as program lead for parents.

ON-ICE INSTRUCTORS

This position entails the actual *delivery* of THE BIG ASSIST curriculum on ice (inclusive of 6-week Trial & 6-week Transition Program). Minimum commitment of 1 season, but ideally this person would serve as an on-ice instructor for 2 years.

Unlike a traditional coach (someone who traditionally trains participants for games), these instructors are charged with teaching or impacting knowledge/information on the kids and their parents. The difference – perhaps subtle to some – is critical to ensuring a successful delivery of THE BIG ASSIST, and should be considered when looking to identify the right volunteers for this role.

Qualifications include, but are not limited to:

- Possess a coaching and/or hockey background OR a strong desire to begin to learn instructional techniques in the delivery of fundamental ice hockey skills.
- Experience working with young children OR possess an enthusiastic attitude and desire to work with them.
- Possess strong communication skills.
- Possess a commitment to the goals and philosophy of THE BIG ASSIST program

On-Ice Instructor Responsibilities

- Successfully complete the instructor's training program and any supplementary training sessions as coordinated by the minor hockey association.
- Participate in the Welcome Event, engaging with families and assisting with facilitation of the on-site experience as needed.
- Successfully deliver on-ice curriculum as provided by Hockey Canada. Provide instruction in a manner that motivates and challenges the participants while respecting each individual.
- Arrive at the ice rink approximately 20 minutes prior to each on-ice session (30 on week #1), and stay approximately 20 minutes after to assist with questions, provide feedback to parents, etc.
- Demonstrate effective leadership on and off the ice.
- Teach and model respectful behaviour, fairness and good sportsmanship.

STUDENT ON-ICE ASSISTANTS

In addition to the required On-Ice Instructors, we highly encourage Associations to solicit current players from within the community at the Bantam or Midget level to act as on-ice Assistants to the Instructors for the duration of a 6-week session (Trial and/or Transition Programs – note, a commitment to both is encouraged, but not necessary). This role should be positioned as an honor (through a ‘selection’ process, for example), and should be represented by individuals who reflect the values of the Association and THE BIG ASSIST.

Qualifications include, but are not limited to:

- Age 13-17 who is currently registered with Hockey Canada.
- Must always be under the supervision of an Instructor.

ON-ICE LEAD & INSTRUCTOR INCENTIVES & REWARDS

We recognize and appreciate the commitment required as an On-Ice Lead and Instructor. We also believe this position is critical to the success of the program and as such, have outlined the following rewards/incentives:

Equipment

In year 1 of the BIG ASSIST, Instructors will receive the following equipment from BAUER: track jacket/pants, gloves, stick & helmet. This equipment will be gifted to the Instructors and is not expected back at the conclusion of the 12-weeks. If the instructor commits to a 2nd season with THE BIG ASSIST, they will receive skates (to be distributed at the beginning of the 2nd season).

Other

TBD in conjunction with Hockey Canada.



THE BIG ASSIST:

HELPING KIDS FALL IN LOVE WITH HOCKEY



EMAIL APPLICATION TO: bauerbigassist@hockeycanada.ca (OR)

FAX APPLICATION TO: 403.777.3635

DEADLINE: July 11th

Branch: Ontario Hockey Federation (OHF) Member Partner: Ontario Minor Hockey (OMHA)

Name of Minor Hockey Association: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

MHA President: _____

Telephone: _____ (home) _____ (mobile)

Email: _____

Name of Partnering Minor Hockey Association: _____

MHA Contact (if different from President): _____

Telephone: _____ (home) _____ (mobile)

Email: _____

I understand if selected, it is the responsibility of the Association to provide the program requirements as outlined above.

THE BIG ASSIST will be limited to 30 Associations next year. In addition to the requirements outlined on page 1 of this application, what else would your Association commit to in year 1 and/or year 2 of THE BIG ASSIST to ensure a successful experience for participants? This information will weigh into the selection process, as we're looking for Associations who will maximize the offer and are committed to the long-term success of the program.

Signature, MHA President: _____

Date: _____



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