

Parent Fundraising and Volunteer Responsibilities

Many parents have asked, what are the mandatory expectations of me as a Wild athlete parent? To help clarify the responsibilities we each have, please see the descriptions below:

Bingos

- Every season the number of bingo positions allotted to Wild help raise an estimated \$17,000. These funds go to the broader club to help offset the costs of pool time, equipment and coaching. This money is not directed at any one age group or project but included in the Wild's overall operational budget.
- Each family is assigned an equal number of bingos per season based on the number of bingos and positions that must be filled. Typically, this amounts to 3-4 bingo shifts per season.
- Shifts are usually evening and late night. Many shifts can be done back to back (an evening and late night) so that a volunteer gets 2 shifts completed in one evening
- These bingo shifts are mandatory for club members as the amount of income generated is an important pillar of the Wild overall budget.
- At the season start the Bingo coordinator sends out the dates available for the season with a deadline of choosing your spots. After the deadline has passed, a random process of drawing remaining names is pulled and assigned the remaining spots.
- After the schedule has been set, it is YOUR responsibility to fulfill the commitment. Wild may not (under Alberta Gaming Rules) and will not find you a replacement for shifts. This is your responsibility.

- Common question – if I cannot make my shift what can I do?
 - You may find a replacement from within your own circle (family, friends, neighbours, etc.);
 - Wild has a list of volunteers from the community at large that enjoy a night at bingo and don't mind covering shifts. They do, however, request some sort of compensation. ***This is strictly between yourself and the individual covering the shift. Wild does not and will not make any transactions or negotiations on your behalf.***
 - If you are uncomfortable negotiating some sort of compensation it is always best to ask other member what they may have done in the past, or find a family member or friend to cover your shift for you. Once you have found a replacement it is up to you to let the Bingo coordinator know who is coming and contact information.
 - You may also send an email to the other club members asking to trade dates. Again, this is up to you to coordinate and then let the Bingo coordinator know who is coming and contact information.
 - If members do not show up for assigned positions and do not have coverage for those positions they will be fined **\$110** as outlined in our registration package. Unfilled positions are penalized against the club and can ultimately lead to our losing our bingo license.
- No team has any funds directed to them to offset costs of travel or tournament fees. Outlined in our registration we discuss “travel credits”. To clarify, when a position goes unfilled and the club must find coverage to avoid penalty, we are not able to monetarily compensate replacement workers.

- Therefore, the club asks members who may have already completed their bingo commitments to cover these shifts. If they do, in appreciation, fines that were levied on the member that did not show (\$110) may flow through accounting as a credit towards travel costs to the member that did the additional shift.
- This practice is used as a last option by the club, as again, all members are expected to arrange for their shifts to be completed on their own.

Casino

- Wild hosts a casino every 18 months. The dates are determined by the Alberta Gaming Commission and Wild does not have the option of choosing dates.
- In years when we are responsible for casinos, the obligation is that each family will fill at least one volunteer position. *This is in addition to bingo.*
- Over the two days of casino there are a total of 36-40 positions. With at least 30+ families in the club this should not be an issue.
- In Casino years, this commitment is IN ADDITION to assigned bingo shifts. Casino revenue represents the bulk of our club's income for an 18 month period and again it goes towards our overall operational budget.
- We estimate \$40,000+ per year in income from casinos.

Minor Officiating

- Parent Power is the key to minor officiating.
- We are all expected to provide volunteers hours for each and every event that our athletes participate in. Not only to cover the shifts that take place during our child(ren)'s games but those that happen before and after as well. A minimum number of shifts is required from each family for major events.
- Games can only be played with minor officials. Cancellation of games because of missing minor officials only hurts our athletes.

- What is the average commitment?
 - City League - we are generally asked to host one Sunday per term (Sept-Dec and Jan-Apr). With the games lasting about 2-2.5 hours on a Sunday night that is not much.
 - Provincial League – on average there are 8 weekends of competition (one day per age group). Not all games are hosted in Calgary, but volunteers are required regardless of city. As games are played throughout the day, it usually means we as families spend much of the day at the pool. We are required to cover games outside of our own. So again, the commitment each is not that great. Estimating three games back to back is 3 hours during a given tournament
- All positions are relatively easy to learn. Throughout the season there are training sessions offered by AWWPA, and as a club we will offer in-house training as well.
- All parents are required to fill positions (new and existing), so even when it's a first time helping or doing a new position someone is on deck to provide guidance and help out.
- Minor officiating is a **parent powered** responsibility that is outlined within our registration package. To avoid fines and implementing a tracking system please make sure to sign up for positions as soon as tournament information is sent out.

Raffles and Other Fundraising

- The club strives to minimize the number and amount of parent fundraising that is required to balance our budget each season.
- The board also strives to offer a comprehensive, high performance program at the most affordable cost possible to athletes. This is why our bingo and casino revenues are so vital.

- Beyond bingo and casino, we require a fundraising commitment from families in the form of raffles, draws, etc. to keep athletes' registration fees affordable.
- Families must \$150 each season based on the initiative organized by the board and it's volunteers. Families wishing to opt out of the fundraising (i.e. raffles) have the option to pay an amount at the season start in a lump sum of \$200.
- The board also looks at opportunities to raise funds without any direct costs to families such as Flip Give, Grocery Cards, Team Sponsors. This is above and beyond our raffle, etc. efforts. If we excel at these approaches, then the requirement for additional fundraising is reduced.

General Volunteering

- Not only do the board positions need to be filled each year, but we require other parent power to help manage teams, coordinate bingo, coordinate casinos, run raffles and other fundraising options, organize holiday and year end parties, etc. When everyone helps, the work is shared and we avoid volunteer 'burn out' where a few do the work for the many. Thank you in advance for helping!