



# INFORMATION BULLETIN

**Bulletin No: 16/29**

Date: May 15, 2017

To: Minor Hockey Associations  
Volunteers  
Leagues

From: Hockey Alberta

**SUBJECT: Hockey Alberta's Parent Engagement Program**

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As part of its three-year strategic planning process, Hockey Alberta is developing a new Parent Engagement Program (PEP) strategy.

Hockey Alberta's PEP strategy will focus on better serving and supporting the parents, family members and coaches of hockey participants across the province. The strategy will focus on education on several core topics including:

- Cyber-Bullying
- Pre-Season Parent Meetings
- Conversations on the Car Ride Home
- Concussions
- Behavior in the Arena
- Supporting the athlete with good nutrition, hydration and sleep habits

A key component the PEP strategy are the Respect in Sport Parent and Activity Leader/Coach programs. Hockey Alberta has required successful completion of those programs since partnering with Respect Group in 2012.

Effective for the 2018-19 season, Hockey Alberta will require re-certification every four seasons for the RIS Parent and Activity Leader/Coach online programs. This will be mandatory for all families with players in sanctioned minor hockey and team officials. A minimum of one parent/caregiver per household must complete the Parent program. As well, Speak Out certification will no longer be recognized; those with Speak Out will require the appropriate Respect in Sport program.

An FAQ sheet has been developed to answer some questions. Over the course of the 2017-18 season, full details will be provided, including a renewal schedule and information about the PEP strategy.

For questions, please contact Mike Klass, Senior Manager, Business Operations at [mklass@hockeyalberta.ca](mailto:mklass@hockeyalberta.ca) or 403-342-6777.



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## Frequently Asked Questions – Respect in Sport (RIS) Recertification:

### 1. How did Hockey Alberta determine that recertification was necessary?

- A report submitted by the Hockey Alberta's Risk and Player Safety Committee made multiple recommendations including the recertification of Respect in Sport for both the Parent and Activity Leader/Coach programs and no longer recognizing Speak Out as a relevant program for Coaches.
- A study conducted by Mount Royal University reported that 70% of families recommended that the Respect In Sport program be taken a minimum of every three years and wanted all adults certified.
- A study conducted by the University of Toronto showed that following completion of the Respect In Sport program that 94% of parents became more child-centred.

### 2. How much will recertification cost?

- The cost is unchanged: \$12 for the Parent program; \$30 for the Activity Leader/Coach program. Hockey Alberta is confident that the values are not a barrier to continue to foster an improved player experience.

### 3. When do I need to complete the certification?

- A full renewal schedule will be finalized during the 2017-18 season for those who have taken the course in the past three years.
- RIS will continue to be a pre-requisite to register in minor hockey for first-time families and coaches.

### 4. Why is Speak Out no longer recognized?

- Since the implementation of RIS in 2012, many topics from the Speak Out program are no longer relevant or to the same standard as RIS. Our goal is to ensure players are supported by coaches with the same level of knowledge on concussions, social risks, etc.

### 5. Has the program changed?

- Respect Group has committed to developing content that addresses new research and social challenges.
- The Parent program has new content and experts, and in 2017 added a full screen interface, closed captioning and a faster pace as part of the improved experience.
- The Activity Leader/Coach program updated content in 2016.

### 6. Can I do the program on my phone or tablet?

- Yes. RIS is Apple and Android friendly, operates on mobile browsers and does not require additional applications or plug-ins.
- The Parent program will be available this summer as an App for both iOS and Android.



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## **7. How long does it take to complete the new programs?**

- The programs have been condensed.
- Parent program: 60-90 minutes
- Activity Leader/Coach program: 120-150 minutes.
- Users can stop at the end of any module and continue at a later date.

## **8. How much more work does recertification mean for MHA volunteers and staff?**

- RIS is a pre-requisite to registration for both player and team officials, so there should be little to no workload increase. Communication to users on where to find log-in and password information will be provided as a future resource through Respect Group.
- Respect Group has created a direct and responsive email to support administrators of the program to assist with any challenges.