



# Vancouver Island Amateur Hockey Association

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## ACTION BULLETIN

**Issue # 2014-021-A**

October 22, 2014

**TO:** VIAHA Membership  
**FROM:** Jim Humphrey, VIAHA President  
**COPY:** VIAHA Officers, BC Hockey District Director, VIAHA Staff  
**SUBJECT:** Team Travel and Team Budget Approval Process

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This is a follow-up to the discussion that took place at the October 18, 2014 VIAHA Executive Committee meeting with respect to parent involvement in determining travel and approval of budgets. As we all can agree hockey is one of the more expensive team sports that our children participate in and in studies conducted by Hockey Canada the cost of playing and travelling forced by overzealous coaches play a factor in kids leaving our sport. It was appreciated that all MHA Presidents agreed that parents play a crucial role in approving team budget and the planning for travel to tournaments.

We have been receiving concerns from parents indicating that they are not being asked about team expenditures but told this is what it is going to cost a parent to have your child play with very little discussion or input. Where the registration fees along with rep fees etc. that are put in place by an MHA are expenses that parents have to make a conscious decision on prior to signing their child up for hockey, once assigned to a team the budget that is put forward as a team budget which should include all team expenses that the team officials have in their annual plan and include such items as:

- travel for league, exhibition and tournament games
- dry land costs
- tournament entrance fees;
- accommodations and meals while on the road;
- perhaps team apparel such as track suits, jackets, equipment etc.
- as well as other costs parents are expected to pay

The above items need to be discussed and voted on by the parents. It is the parents money that covers the costs and as such they MUST have input and even the authority to veto expenses that they feel they do not want to incur outside of the costs to participate in the VIAHA leagues and playoffs and BC Hockey Championships.

I would strongly encourage widest distribution of this action bulletin so parents all know and understand their rights as a parent and would encourage team officials to include parents in their pre-planning so as when budgets do come forward that everyone has been a participant in the planning process.

Respectfully,

Jim Humphrey  
VIAHA President