

## **GRANDE PRAIRIE MINOR HOCKEY and THE GRANDE PEACE ATHLETIC CLUB**

### **Special Announcement**

**May 8, 2021**

GPMHA and GPAC are proud to announce that both U13 AA (formerly Peewee AA) teams will be joining and wearing the GPAC Storm colors for the 2021 / 2022 season. The addition of the two U13 AA teams in the GPAC system was the next step in the growth of GPAC being able to provide elite level hockey to players in our zone.

Over the last few years GPAC has added an additional U15 AA team and a new U16 AA team to the program and now is ready to provide an elite level program to the top U13 male players in our area !

With the addition of the two U 13 AA teams, the GPAC family will have a total of nine teams! The new U13 AA Storm program will provide a great stepping stone and a more advanced program to the U13 AA players, to better prepare them for the next steps of elite level hockey at the U15, U16 and U18 levels.

On behalf of The Grande Peace Athletic Club we would like to welcome the U13 players, coaches and teams into the GPAC Storm program. Development of players and coaches throughout our zone has always been a priority for our program and we look forward to the opportunity to work with the U 13 players and coaches. I would like to thank GPMHA Technical Director Brett Stephenson, GPAC Technical Director Ryan Allen, the GPMHA Board of Directors and the GPAC Board of Directors for all of their synergy and collaborative efforts to further advance the opportunities for young hockey players in our zone.

**Tyler Stojan**  
**President, GPAC**

On behalf of Grande Prairie Minor Hockey and as the Technical Director of Hockey Operations, I couldn't be more excited about the news of our U-13 AA Knights joining our local elite stream GPAC Storm! Like most things in life, we are not sure of anything but when you look at some of the people committed to this partnership you do get the vision that something special is building. The ones who will benefit the most will be our young players who will don the 'Storm' colors starting next season and will continue up through the ranks! I look forward to the continued relationship with Ryan Allen-GPAC Technical Director as we see the opportunities that lie within. Go Knights & Go Storm!!

**Brett Stephenson**  
**Technical Director, GPMHA**

We are very excited to announce both of our GPMHA U13 AA teams will join the GPAC umbrella. After going through this process we believe this will be the best fit for our athletes moving forward. If you look across the province almost all associations are taking this same initiative and we feel for us this will be the best for everyone involved. We will continue to develop our players and coaches within GPAC to strive to achieve the next level. The development and affiliation processes just got a lot stronger in terms of working together as one entity. I also look forward to the continued partnership with Brett Stephenson, GPMHA Technical Director. There is a synergy that is being built that will undoubtedly be a huge benefit for our coaches and players!

**Ryan Allen**  
**Technical Director, GPAC**

I am happy and grateful to be named the head coach of one of the U13 AA teams here in Grande Prairie. The news that we will be a part of GPAC is exciting as it opens doors for our players and coaches with mental training, physical fitness, and specialty coaching that our parents and kids are asking for at this level. GPAC has a long list of assets for us to tap into and the development of our kids will be top notch in the country at this level!!!

**Brenan Jones**  
**Head Coach, U13 AA**

The transition from Grande Prairie Minor Hockey Association (GPMHA) to the Grande Peace Athletic Club (GPAC) seems a natural progression. Having coached at U15 AA the final year before that team moved from GPMHA to GPAC, I feel well-qualified to suggest it has been a positive move for that age group. Having coached last season at U13AA, the two seasons previous in GPAC and more than 10 years in GPMHA prior to that, I am confident that players at U13 AA next year will benefit from the advantages offered. Increased ice time, dedicated specialty instruction/staff and an athletic club atmosphere just to name a few, prepare players for the next levels of hockey.

**Mike Murray**  
**Head Coach, U13 AA**

I would like to offer a huge thanks to both the GPMHA and GPAC Boards for the hard work and due diligence that has been accomplished in creating this opportunity. I truly believe that this is one of the many building blocks that have been put in place over the past years in creating an elite stream program for the U13 players and coaches in our Recruitment Draw Area. I look forward to seeing the U13 AA teams wearing the GPAC Storm jerseys in the very near future!

**D J Golden**  
**President, GPMHA**

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