

President's Message...

August 28, 2012

With the Labor Day tournament less than a week away and the season upon us I wanted to reach out with a couple of updates and requests.

For starters, the TAHA Board has voted to add a new appointed position to the Board. The new job; Director of Communications, will handle coordination of advertising and PR and will be busy right away with activities related to the upcoming Hall of Fame induction and "*HockeyFest*". Candidates should have excellent writing skills, possess a knowledge of PR, advertising and experience with media outlets. The pay is non-existent but the rewards are exceptional. Interested candidates should email me with information on qualifications. This is an urgent need so if you or someone you know has this background and wants to be involved please contact me.

U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame Inductions

As announced earlier this month Dallas will host the 40th annual U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame ceremonies at the Plaza of the Americas and Marriot hotel downtown on Monday night October 15, 2012. This is a great honor for Texas and we eagerly join USA Hockey and the Dallas Stars in wanting this to be a world class event. USA Hockey has asked that we provide a local team to assist with logistics and check in activities. If you are interested in working the event and can be available for a couple of conference calls in advance of the gala, please email TAHA Secretary Deb Lewis at txregistrar@sbcglobal.net

"HockeyFest"

I am pleased to announce that plans for the first annual "HockeyFest" are underway. HockeyFest will be held on Saturday, October 13th at a rink location (TBD). In celebration of the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame inductions (to be held on Monday, October 15th), the day will feature games played by teams from the Alliance and Elite. Already committed are the PW AAA teams, U14 Tier I and U18 Tier I teams. Other games are being considered and may be added. But it will be a great day at the rink with some of the area's best players. And, plans are in the works to raffle away two tickets to the Hall of Fame ceremony on Monday evening. We are also seeking a sponsor for what we hope will become a staple in the hockey landscape here in Texas. Stay tuned for more information on this very exciting event.

Matching Grants

A reminder that TAHA will be offering “matching grants” for youth goalie gear this year. Associations and rinks can apply for matching funds. The maximum grant amount from TAHA is still being determined and will be communicated shortly. If your rink or organization wants to apply for a matching grant please submit an email to:

Don Girard

Treasurer

digard@nationalbanner.com

Include your:

Name

Organization

Age group

Copy of receipt

Reason/rationale for request

Adult Hockey

Adult hockey is a large and growing segment of the membership in TAHA. More and more adults are looking for opportunities to play but want to ensure they are playing in leagues sanctioned by USA Hockey, officiated by USA Hockey officials and covered by USA Hockey insurance. TAHA will shortly begin publishing a list of adult leagues on our web site that are registered with USA Hockey. If you are a rink operator and want your Leagues listed please email your rink name and League name to Adult Section President, Corky Brown. You can reach Corky at austinbrowns2006@aol.com.

Automatic 30 Day Suspension for Helmet Removal

Prior to the 2011/12 season, USA Hockey mandated a Match Penalty be assessed for intentional helmet removal (either your own or an opponent's). There was a surge in Match Penalties called throughout the season and frankly the number of additional hearings that were required clogged our system. With hearings conducted only once a month the increase in Match Penalties made for some long nights for the committees, players and witnesses.

The TAHA Board has determined that effective immediately, a helmet removal match penalty will carry an automatic 30 day suspension with no hearing required. Players may request a hearing and hearings will be conducted as previously scheduled on the first Tuesday of each month.

Committees

Volunteers are still coming forward and I hope to be able to announce committees on Grow the Game and Cost Reduction within the next 30 days.

Finally, as teams and organizations prepare to begin play this week we want to encourage all of our families to applaud good plays, cheer loudly and positively, and be ever mindful that what we do and how we act **matters**. Ask your constituents to be ambassadors for our game and do nothing to reflect negatively on our sport.

Volunteer early and often!

Reggie