



May 2017

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Now that the 2016/17 season is over, and before we get into tryouts I wanted to give you a brief update on a few topics. This was a very exciting season for teams and organizations in our Affiliate and I believe we are poised to achieve even more in the seasons to come.

THREE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Congratulations to Frisco High School for capturing the National Championship in the Blended HS Division. After securing the Texas State Championship, Frisco went undefeated at Nationals and brought home the very first HS title a team from Texas has won.

At the Tier II 16U National Tournament held in our backyard at the Frisco Arena, the Dallas Penguins and HC Dallas faced off in the title game marking the first time two Texas teams have met in the championship game. In a close game the Dallas Penguins held off a scrappy HCD squad to claim a second National crown.

Congrats to both teams for a great showing!

And just two weeks ago the Women's 40+ and 50+ teams both competed at the USA Hockey Women's National tournament. The 40+ ladies team went in as the defending National Champs and clawed their way to the title game before losing in OT by a 2-1 score.

The 50+ Women's team lost last year in the championship game but this year would not be denied as they battled Team Michigan in the finals and took the hard-fought contest by a 2-1 margin.

We had more teams compete this year at nationals than ever and are extremely proud of all our teams; particularly the three National Champs.



ADULT STATE TOURNAMENT

In April TAHA hosted the first ever adult tournament in Dallas. There were two champions crowned this year; one in the B Division and one in the C Division. Thanks to Austin Sutter (President, Adult Section), primary sponsor Hockey Monkey and our StarCenter partners for putting the tournament together.

We will be working to expand the tournament next season and add more teams and divisions so stay tuned for more details in the fall.

USA HOCKEY TIER II 16U NATIONALS

TAHA again hosted the 16U Tier II National tournament. This was the 2nd time in three years for the event to be held in Dallas. Led by TAHA VP Mark Servaes the event was again a tremendous success, culminating in a Division 2A final game pitting the Dallas Penguins against HC Dallas. A first for any national championship game to see two Texas teams battle each other for the national crown. In the end, the Dallas Penguins pulled out a 5-2 victory.

Special thanks to the dozens of volunteers from the Penguins and Warrior organizations, making this one of the best tournaments in the country.

TRYOUTS

The tryout schedule for the 2017/18 season has been posted on the TAHA web site and all should be aware of those dates. As a reminder, while organizations may conduct "prospect" or "coach" skates during the Spring, no player can be contracted prior to the tryout dates identified for the player's age and skill level. And please don't forget that any organization that tries out on a "Tier" weekend is **required** to apply for the State Tournament "at that level" and compete in the playdown process.

Failure to apply for the State Tournament carries a substantial fine to the organization as well as potential sanctions.



FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS

Last week all travel associations were notified of a new financial disclosure requirement approved by the TAHA Board. As indicated in the email you received, we believe it is vitally important that parents be apprised well in advance of the full cost of travel, along with what services they can expect to receive during the season, so that families can make informed decisions about travel hockey.

This transparency is an important step for our organizations to take to ensure parents don't get hit with unexpected costs during or after the season.

Please make sure your cost sheet is submitted to the Travel Section President and posted on your web sites prior to tryouts.

ANNUAL MEETING

The TAHA annual meeting will be held June 24th in Farmers Branch, TX at the Doubletree Hotel on Luna Road. Lunch will be served at 12:30 noon and the meeting will run from 1:00 PM until 4:00 PM.

All TAHA members (rinks, associations) are **REQUIRED** to have at least one representative present for the entire meeting. Please register online at: <https://tahahockey.sportngin.com/register/form/408443560> by Sunday June, 18 at 5:00 PM so we can order the correct number of meals.

Member Associations may submit agenda items for consideration via email to me at reggiehall@tahahockey.org. Suggestions must be received by midnight on June 10th. Associate members of TAHA (players/parents/officials/coaches) are invited to attend.

BOARD ELECTIONS

During the Annual Meeting in June there will be five (5) TAHA Board positions up for election. They include President, Treasurer, House Section President, High School Section President and Adult Section President.

At this time, four incumbents will be seeking reelection; Reggie Hall (President), Don Girard (Treasurer), TC Lewis (House Section President) and Austin Sutter (Adult



Section President). Jay Ray (President of High School Section) will not be seeking reelection. Nominations for these positions will open on May 26, 2016 and close at midnight on June 16, 2017.

Any individual may self-nominate or be nominated by another. For all Board positions the nominee must be a current or former Associate member of TAHA. Nominees for the office of President MUST have served on the TAHA Board within the past two years. Nominations may be made during the nomination period by emailing the President at reggiehall@tahahockey.org.

CONCUSSION PROTOCOLS

Last summer we implemented a staged return to play protocol for players diagnosed with a concussion. TAHA was a leader in this action and has been recognized by USA Hockey and other Affiliates for our willingness to take active steps to protect our athletes.

By all measures the program has been a success and has been embraced by all programs in the Affiliate.

We are making one minor change to the policy for the 2017/18 season. In addition to submitting the form documenting the stages of activity as observed by a team official, teams will also be required to include the signed physicians release as well. Thank you for helping us make this such a successful program.

COACHES HELMETS

Just a reminder that ALL COACHES are required to wear helmets on the ice for all USA Hockey sanctioned activities. There are **NO EXCEPTIONS/NO WARNINGS!** Any coach determined to be on the ice without a helmet will be suspended for 10 days. That includes practices, games, meetings. A second violation in the same season will see the suspension doubled to 20 days. A third helmet violation will carry an automatic 30-day suspension and will result in a required hearing with the TAHA Disciplinary Committee.



The coaches' organization will be subject to additional discipline.

SAFESPORT COORDINATOR POSITION OPEN

Sadly, we must report that Bryan Ford has resigned his position as SafeSport Coordinator for the Affiliate. Bryan has been in this role for the past two seasons and has done a marvelous job of evaluating and resolving complaints, working with member associations in establishing review procedures and guidelines and interfacing with USA Hockey on this vital area.

We appreciate the many hours Bryan contributed and thank him for his lasting impact. Now we must find a replacement. Candidates interested in this critical position should email me directly at reggiehall@tahahockey.org.

BYLAW CHANGE RECOMMENDATIONS

This year TAHA has one proposed changes to the Bylaws that you will need to vote on at the annual meeting in June.

The change eliminates the requirement to hold the annual meeting in June and gives the Board the flexibility to move the meeting to an earlier or later time.

2017 DISABLED ATHLETE OF THE YEAR – ALFREDO CORONA

I want to extend my personal congratulations to our own Alfredo Corona (President, Disabled Section) as he has been named 2017 USA Hockey Disabled Athlete of the Year. Alfredo is a great leader and advocate for the Disabled Section and we are fortunate to have him work with us at TAHA. He will receive his award next month at the Annual Congress.

DISTRICT DIRECTOR ELECTION

I am happy to announce that Kathleen Smith has been elected to the vacated Rocky Mountain District Director position. Congrats to Kathleen and thank you to all members who supported her election.



AND FINALLY...

Again this season our member organizations and rink partners have done a tremendous job promoting our game to new players. We continue to see substantial increases in our youngest age groups and expect that to only grow as we see additional rinks come online over the next year. The efforts by all our rink partners simply cannot be overstated as they invest time, money and energy into player expansion. TAHA stands ready to support your initiatives and activities in whatever ways we can.

As leaders and influencers in our sport, I want to encourage each of you to do what you can to help bring costs down for our players. Each year we lose thousands of current and potential players simply because the expense of playing our game is beyond the means of many families. I challenge each of you to find a way to reduce costs in your own programs. And I am asking each travel association to identify one or two rinks where you can donate equipment or coaching support to help lower the costs for those players just starting out.

Thank you to all the associations who supported our initiatives and worked tirelessly to help us put TAHA in such a strong position.

Thank you to the Board members that worked so hard to elevate our game in Texas and Oklahoma.

And a particular thanks to the NHL Dallas Stars for stepping up and making the growth and stability of our game a top priority. Without your constant support and effort throughout the Affiliate, we would not have made the strides we have experienced the last six years.

As I do in each President's Message, I want to remind all of us to please keep our first responders and members of the military in our thoughts and prayers as they strive to keep us safe to play the game we love so dearly.



Good luck during tryouts and have a great summer!!

Reggie

President

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We are working hard to get you a YES answer!