

President's Message...

October 3, 2012

Leveling has been completed, scheduling is finalized and the new season is underway. There have already been some very exciting local contests and Texas/Oklahoma teams are representing our Affiliate well around the country. As players continue to improve; teams gel and more games are under the belt, the level of play here will be competitive with any region in USA Hockey. As I hope to do each month, this update will give you information about activities and initiatives taking place that will impact your organization and/or facility. I encourage you to share this information with your players and families.

HOCKEYFEST 2012

HOCKEYFEST is just under two weeks away and the details are nearly all finalized. This week you will begin to see posters up in the Dallas area rinks and hockey shops with the game schedule (games begin at 10:00 AM on Saturday morning October, 13 at the Dr Pepper StarCenter Farmers Branch). And we are adding to the event each day. We are pleased to announce that Ralph Strangis (Dallas Stars play-by-play announcer) will attend and handle some of the PA announcing duties. And some of the Dallas Stars Ice Girls will be in attendance and available for photographs and to help with the raffle.

More raffle donation items are needed and will be accepted through October 12th. Our grand prizes are two sets of two tickets to the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame Induction dinner and ceremony taking place on Monday night October 15. Raffle tickets are available from most Dallas area hockey associations or feel free to contact a member of the TAHA board for information on where to purchase.

Former NHL alumni and current players will also be on hand to sign autographs and drop the pucks for each of the four contests. Already committed to be with us for HOCKEYFEST are Brent Severyn, Stu Barnes and Bob Bassen. The Dallas Stars Mobile Marketing Unit will be on hand with giveaways and games.

Sponsorships and program ads are still available ranging from \$250 to \$5,000. If interested in being an advertiser, sponsor or having a table on the concourse please contact Christine Dykstra at: Christine-dykstra@usa.net.

It is going to be a great day of celebration of our sport and all player, parents and friends are invited to attend.

U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame Induction

Just a reminder that the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame Induction will take place in Dallas on Monday night, October 15th at the Plaza of the Americas ice rink downtown. Tickets are still available (\$175 each) and tables are available for \$1,750 (10 seats). USA Hockey has agreed that any table sold through any local hockey organization will result a \$250 contribution to the local organization and \$250 to the TAHA scholarship fund. If you are interested in purchasing a table for the Hall of Fame event please contact me directly ASAP!

Staffing

Last month I told you the TAHA Board had voted to add a Director of Communications position. After posting the position, we had several great candidates to come forward for us to consider. We have selected Christine Dykstra who comes to us with deep communications and marketing expertise and a great background with hockey as she is married to former NHL pro and Stanley Cup winner; Steve Dykstra. Christine has jumped in to lead many of the activities related to HOCKEYFEST and we are thrilled with her appointment.

Greene vs. TAHA Lawsuit

As some of you may be aware, TAHA is currently engaged in an active lawsuit with Bob Greene, parent of Saxon Greene; an Ice Jet bantam player. This lawsuit was filed in June of 2011, when TAHA did not award Tier I status to the Ice Jets. Many of you may be under the mistaken impression that this suit was somehow dismissed or dropped but in fact it is quite an active litigation and after 15 months it is just about to begin in earnest.

Mr. Greene is essentially claiming that his son Saxon was denied the chance to play Tier I with the Ice Jets (ironically in his deposition Mr. Greene himself indicated Saxon was not a Tier I level player) and as a result he is entitled to thousands of dollars of damages from TAHA. We believe Mr. Greene has no standing to file this suit and that this is merely an attempt to get a payday from amateur hockey. TAHA intends to vigorously defend this suit.

Travel Permits

As each of you know, TAHA has historically required Travel Permits when traveling to tournaments or friendship games outside of our Affiliate. This was done primarily to ensure that tournaments were properly sanctioned and insured, that rosters were approved by TAHA and to monitor where our teams were playing. With the improved

technology and access to information we are reconsidering this requirement and will be communicating a position on this shortly.

USAH and Hockey Canada continue to require permits when traveling to play in Canada.

Committees

As communicated in my first message to you, we are deeply committed to addressing two critical issues in our sport; costs and growth. I asked for people to volunteer to participate on two task force groups that TAHA wanted to assemble to discuss and offer ideas to the Affiliate. We had some offers to help but surprisingly not nearly enough. We can take more volunteers to help with these two committees and I am hoping to have these two groups announced mid next week.

Recruiting of Players

I want to remind all organizations that players with signed fee commitment documents may not be recruited to join another team or organization during the season. From the USA Hockey Coaching Ethics document comes this statement:

RECRUITING

Coaches will not recruit a participant who is already a member of another USA Hockey team. Direct contact by a coach or his/her staff or indirect contact through an agent or parent during the playing season with a participant who is a member of another USA Hockey team is considered tampering and is prohibited.

If a higher level team is interested in a player currently rostered on a lower level team it is the responsibility of the coach of the higher level team to contact the player's current coach directly to discuss the opportunity. The coaches should discuss what is in the best interest of the player's development objective and consider a possible move to a higher level team if that is warranted. Coaches with players that may be able to compete on higher level teams are encouraged to support player advancement.

Players may elect to leave the current team to join a new team of any level provided the player is current with payments in accordance with the TAHA mandated payment percentages listed in the Member Agreements.

Tampering is not permitted and will subject the offending coach and team to suspensions.

Girls/Womens Tier I/Tier II Districts

I am pleased to report that TAHA has been awarded the 2013 Girls/Women's Tier I and Tier II District Tournament. The tournament will occur the first weekend in March and the rink location is still being determined. Last year's Girls National Tournament was a

great success and we are eagerly looking forward to another great event. Stay tuned for more updates throughout the season.

Sled Hockey

The 9th annual USA Disabled Hockey Festival is being held in Philadelphia next April and Team Texas needs your financial support. Here is a link to [Texas Sled Hockey](#) where you can find out more about these inspirational athletes and make a contribution to Team Texas.

Thank you as always for your involvement in our sport. It is through your efforts that our players and families get to experience this great game.

Volunteer early and often.

Reggie