



F.Y.H.A November Newsletter

The hockey season is off and running. I did not have an October newsletter as there were too many things happening too fast to put out a decent newsletter. I think we had probably one of the most bizarre Octobers on record. Between the extremely warm weather that turned our arena into a swamp and the association not knowing or forecasting the Zamboni breaking down. But things are starting to smooth out.

The coaches locker room has been moved to give the players an extra locker room to use for practice. This has caused wrinkles of its own and we are working thru them. And since I am on the topic of locker rooms, we needed to make several other changes also. We have had H.S. equipment moved or taken out of the locker rooms upstairs. The H.S. locker rooms have been left messy afterwards also. The locker rooms will now be unavailable when there is gear in them. We need to have a discussion with our kids about respecting others space and equipment. I have seen it with my own eyes the lack of respect some kids have for the arena. The arena is everyone's house and it needs to be respected at all times. It is by no means all the kids. So can we have our kids please pick up after themselves? Let's not do any more bottle flipping were the cap can come off and spill Gatorade all over the place!! Yes we do have arena personal that can clean but the less time we spend cleaning we can put that time towards something else.

We have had the policy in the past but admittedly we have gotten lax with it. After the Zamboni comes off the ice it has happened that kids have jumped on the ice with excitement. It is a great problem to have but there is a safety concern with this. Kids are not allowed on the ice until the Zamboni doors close. This is the sign that the ice is ready and that the Zamboni will not be returning to the ice. With all of the issues we had this year, on occasion Cory had to Zamboni twice or the ice wasn't drying very fast. So until the doors are closed and they been directed by a referee or a coach please stay off for safety reasons.

We do have some great news!! Lynn Becker, our "Director of Fun" has loaded us up with a bunch fun and exciting events planned this year. He has setup Chuck-A-Puck's and Hockey Day (1/7). We will also have a Kids night (11/29) where all kids wearing their red jerseys enter into a drawing for movie passes, open skate passes, concession stand passes, and a hotdog for every player. We will be unveiling in the rafters our State of Hockey and a Burtis Jersey (12/3). We also have a Military Salute night (12/15), Hockey fights Cancer (1/19), and lastly Pork Night (1/24). So we have a ton of fun events planned throughout the year. It should be a fun and exciting year.

The Tournament Committee also has locked up the U12B tournament! It will be Dec. 9-11. Depending on the weather we have Pond Hockey and we are in the running for a postseason tournament. I will send out more details when we know for sure. We will have our chances to get our tournament hours in. But like a lot of things these days things can change. Please for your own piece of mind signup for tournament hours when they become available. We have all assumed in the past that we could get our hours at certain tournaments and then they change dates or get cancelled. Please be proactive.

We will also be have a 1 night of training for clock/scoring, penalty box, security, concessions and music. It will be on November 30th at 6:15. It will be a quick refresher course for those who want it and for all people that

have not done the training. There might be a time when you will be asked to fill a spot. Not having the training is not an excuse. As a worst case scenario if no one steps up the person with the most needed hours to fill a slot will be assigned that position.

I have stated in the past that our Gambling Committee profits is the bloodline of FYHA. We took in over \$3,000 alone just for ice time. That only covers the start of our season. Each month I will let you know just how much we bring in. It will be eye opening and interesting when you see it over the course of a season.

Julie Becker has gotten Dibs setup for all games that are on our schedule. If you have any questions be sure to ask someone, your coordinator or email her if you have difficulties. An email was sent out on how to do it.

We are also offering open hockey times at the arena. This is open to all ages. Check the website for dates and times.

Once again this year we have record numbers of skaters in the CER ranks. So many so that we have once again ran out of helmets and are low in some skate sizes this year. This is a good problem and we have replacements ordered. We are also having all of the teams help out the CER kids this year. The young kid's thoroughly enjoy it and the FYHA players I have seen help seem to enjoy. The few players I have talked to have said it reminds them of when they were younger.

The FYHA Board has provided the funds for the FYHA goalies to go to a goalie camp this year. Kelly Artz has put this together. Thank you Kelly. We have budgeted \$2,500 this year for the goalies to go. Goalies will be fitted for gear and equipment will be ordered as needed. Some of the H.S. goalies also have gear ordered. We have invested large amounts of money the last few years but as they continue to grow try to keep up. Details to come. The FYHA Board has also earmarked \$2,500 to have a skating clinic come to town and work the skaters on power skating. We believe the money is a great investment in the future.

I stated in the player/parent meetings that District 4 and MN Hockey is putting an emphasis on crowd participation. This takes some of the pressure off of the officials and also helps retain the officials we have. This weekend we had a parent from Fairmont be ejected from a game. This automatically comes with a 3 game suspension. Let's police each other and help not have this happen again.

This pertains to the H.S. players, when you arrive to the arena for an away game please park on the north east side of the building. Preferably by the ticket booth. This will keep the lot open for when the bus comes to pick you up. Buses take a lot of room to move. This will also leave parking spots open for home games or practices that may go on during the night. In case you haven't noticed the gate has been locked on the east side of the lot. This will only open when there is home games for bus parking. There will be no parking on the grass until the grass is frozen. So parking is a premium right now. We need to park vehicles on the south side of the lot between the Pizza Shack, Bingo Hall, and the 4-H and St. Paul's buildings. Currently this space has been unused because cars have blocked this area off when they park. We also need to make sure we do not park too many vehicles on the south east corner of the building. This clogs up the lot and makes it hard for cars to turn north. As a general rule of thumb right now, please use any and all paved surfaces you can find and leave room for cars to move.

Team coaches and coordinators can see Cory for a printed out schedule to verify scheduled games and open ice times. So far the coaches and coordinators have done a great job so far checking with Cory. The ice is being used heavily so far. That's what it is there for.

Fairmont Hockey Day order forms are available in the lobby. There is a deadline to insure orders are delivered by Christmas. If we run out please email me and I will deliver more to the lobby.

I apologize for the long newsletter. I think the information that I have provided was important to get out to everyone. I think you will agree that we have a lot of things coming down the road. This should be a

successful, fun and enjoyable for everyone. Some of the youth teams have started off on fire already this year. The U12 team went on the road and won. Pee Wee B's tied Mason City in a hard fought game, Pee Wee A's won 7-0 over Mason City and our Bantams got 3rd place in the Albert Lea tournament. Congrats to the coaches and players!!

That's all I have for now. See you at the arena!!

Dates to Remember:

Tues 11/29 varsity doubleheader vs Luverne = kids night. All players wearing Red jersey entered in drawing for movie passes, open skate coupons, & concession stand dollars + free hotdog for every player!

Wed 11/30 = training of clock, scoring, penalty box, music, and security

Sat 12/3 boys vs Winona = hopeful Burtis jersey unveiling in rafters and State of Hockey flag

Thurs 12/15 girls vs Mankato West = Military Salute

Sat Jan 7 = Fmt Hockey Day, hopeful KSUM will be broadcasting

Jan 13-15 (tentatively) = Southern MN Pond Hockey Championship

Thurs Jan 19 = Hockey Fights Cancer

Tues Jan 24 = Pork Night with pork chops on a stick & pork burgers in the concession stand

If anyone is interested in a part time job this winter please talk to Cory as we are looking to fill a couple of spots.

Jason Hegdal, President

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