



**STRATHROY CARADOC YOUTH HOCKEY
NEWSLETTER
March, 2017**

As the 2016/2017 hockey season draws to a close, we hope all participants have increased their skill level but mostly had fun.

The trophy/participation award will happen at the end of each game on Saturday, April 1st. Below is a tentative schedule for the days activities at the Gemini Sportplex:

1. Pizza party will be from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm in the Wecast room/Gemini Arena.
2. Yearend family skate starts at 4:30pm until 6:00pm for Strathroy-Caradoc Youth Hockey participants and family members
3. Please be welcome to stay and cheer on your favorite coaches at the yearend coach's game at 6:30pm.
4. Referee's game at 3:30 pm for all our young referees that give up their time and take abuse from some coaches, players and parents.
5. NOTE: Group D your pizza and pop will be made available in the Wecast room after all 3 games on Friday, March 31st

This day is our thank you to all the volunteers whose time and dedication make this hockey league possible.

REMINDER TO ALL PLAYERS & PARENTS: To hand in your jerseys and goalie equipment on the last day to your coaches. Anyone who will be absent on March 31st or April 1st please make arrangements to get it to your coach before April 7th.

REMINDER TO ALL COACHES: The **equipment return** is scheduled for **Saturday, April 8th** from 10:00am to 2:00pm at West Middlesex Arena, the equipment storage room is beside the Zamboni entrance. Rick will have the door closest propped open for quick and easy access. Please have a volunteer wash the jerseys before returning.

Thank you. It is very important that all hockey equipment is returned at these times, regardless if you are planning to coach next year or not - so it can be inventoried and we are aware of what the league will need in equipment for the following year. If you are unable to make it please contact the equipment manager Rick equipment @ scyh.ca

***** REGISTRATION FOR 2017/2018 HOCKEY SEASON ***:**

Registration for the 2017/2018 season registration will be made available at the **Gemini in the Westcast room Friday, March 31st**, at pizza time and **Saturday, April 1st from 10:00am to 1:00pm and again at 5:00pm to 7:00pm**.

Registration will also be available by getting a registration form off the website www@scyh.ca. and mailing it to the address on the registration form. Costs will be \$225.00. The cheques can be post dated to August 15, 2017.

PLEASE NOTE: Registration is based on a first come basis and I regret to say there is limited space. Unfortunately this has caused the league in the past to turn players away in some age groups. Also, registering late in the year (after August) causes a lot of challenges for the volunteers. One major concern is the executive has to make a decision by September 1st if we are keeping all the ice time. If we turn any back it might not be available the following year. If our numbers appear down and we count on late registrations to fill in before our start date we are putting the league in a precarious position as to committed to ice time we don't require and can't afford if the registrations do not materialize. So I am requesting that everyone please respect the administrative complications and register by the end of August. With kindest regards!

With being an organization that is run by volunteers **we are always looking for more volunteers** such as referees, time keepers, coaches, board members etc. We are in need of:

- Group D Convener for next season; this job is the first contact for coaches and parents in this league.
- There are several openings on the Board as well –Secretary.
- We are also in need of volunteer referees both adult and students. (Note: Volunteer hours by high school students are valid volunteer hours).
- Adult referees for the oldest age group (Group D) are needed desperately.

Just a reminder that this league is all about volunteers the majority of the Board have been doing this for years, consequently, their children are in Group D and several have no children left in this league as they have aged out. To be exact we will have 4 executive members next year that no longer have children playing in the league and will not be available for the next season. The time commitment is minimal when shared; there is an average of 3 to 4 meetings per season. Reality is there will always be a need for new board members and volunteers to keep this league going into the future for the next generation of children.

There have been so many volunteers over our 17 history that need and hopefully have been thanked but today I want to say a special thank you to Tim Wright and Warren Jutzi that have been on the board since its inception and were helping out before the board was established, they recognized that as the league was growing that I was overwhelmed and having a great deal of difficult managing

it all and just stepped in and started helping and taking on jobs. We are all so grateful for your help in making this league what it is today. There are a few more that have already moved on that were paramount in making this league what it is today as it grew and have been thanked. In saying this I would also like to thank Tara Bolton and Milt Agate for their dedication and years of service to this league and were also detrimental in shaping this league as it grew establishing policies and game rules through some difficult years. And at this point I would like to thank Rick Robinson, Mike Minton, Will Mooney & Candias Kroesbergen for joining this team as well as welcome Kelly Flemming & Cheryl Moons to the tech team allowing Warren to retire from the board next year with confidence that all the work he has put in creating and maintaining the website and facebook etc will be well looked after. It is great to see the next generation enthusiastically join the volunteer team to assist this league. I hope I have not missed anyone, You are all appreciated more than words can express.

It has been difficult to retain referees in major due to the verbal abuse and lack of respect they receive from some players, coaches and parents who in the moment forget this is just a hockey game and they are unpaid volunteers, that if they were not out there on the ice doing their best, your children would not have this league to play in.

We have heard the suggestion of paying for refs but as an association to avoid increasing rates to individual players/families plus this does not fit with our league philosophy, and paid refs don't completely solve the problem watch any sports games minor hockey, NHL, baseball, soccer, lacrosse etc there are disputed/bad/missed calls it is just part of sports and needs to be accepted. We also need to remember there is a lot to be watched down on that ice plus what we see from the stands is entirely different prospective/angle than what the ref sees on the ice.

Below are some things all coaches, players and parents need to keep in mind while on and off the ice.

1. **Play with integrity.** One of the most essential lessons a child can learn from sports is to follow the rules.
2. **Respect the officials.** It's important to teach not only our young athletes but also our parents and coaches to respect the referees and officials. Our kids have a watchful eye and take notice when parents and coaches are disrespectful.
3. **Be a good sport.** This means doing what we can to lift our teammates up and help them reach their potential. Being a good teammate means also being a good person on and off the ice regardless of the outcome.
4. **Maintain self-control.** Keep your cool, have a positive attitude, and don't overreact during practice or games. Be encouraging of other players.

We encourage parents you are more than welcome to come and cheer your child on but if you come and find that you are demeaning to coaches and referees's

then it would be preferred that you did not stay to watch the game not to mention the example of poor sportsmanship is unacceptable.

Another issue that needs to be addressed is that this league has grown too large for individuals making requests to play with friends for any reason, the league will continue to put siblings in the same age group on the same team but all other requests will have very low priority. This will include car pooling requests to a maximum of 2 and only if the skill levels do not put any team at an advantage/disadvantage. This will also include requesting coaches. It just makes picking the teams and trying to keep the teams evenly balanced too difficult. I will apologize now for anyone who is offended that they may not end up on a team with their friend but please look at this as an opportunity to make new friends/acquaintances with your teammates. Which is what we encourage as being a part of this group.

There will be a **Board/Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 20, 2017 at 7:00pm at the West Middlesex Memorial Arena**. This is an open invitation to anyone to please come and participate. ***It is an opportunity to voice your thoughts and ideas. All input is more than welcome regardless of any volunteer commitment and we would love to see you there.***

A **BIG THANK-YOU** to all our coaches, referee's, time keepers, group conveners, and the executive, your time and hard work makes this possible for all the participants.

Remember all, this league is about learning and enjoying the game of hockey with equal opportunity for all participants in a non contact atmosphere and with all using good sportsmanship. Good sportsmanship includes respecting teammates, opposing players, coaches on both benches and referees. It is very important that **parents** and **coaches** are on this same page with the league as the examples they set for the players are far more effective than any penalties given. (Regardless of who is winning or what the calls have been like, mistakes are going to be made, just accept them its part of any sports game)

We look forward to seeing you next year. Have a fun, safe and happy summer.

Sincerely,

Heather Langdon. President