



**STRATHROY CARADOC YOUTH HOCKEY
NEWSLETTER
March, 2018**

As the 2017/2018 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, March 24th. Below is a tentative schedule for the days activities at the Gemini Sportplex:

1. Pizza party will be from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm in the Wescast room/Gemini Arena.
2. Year end family skate starts at 4:45pm until 6:00pm for Strathroy-Caradoc Youth Hockey participants and family members
3. After the family skate and pizza , stay and cheer on your favorite coaches at the year end coach's game at 6:30pm.
4. Referee's game at 1:30 pm for all our volunteer 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 Wescast room after all games on Friday, March 23rd.

This day is also 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 23rd or March 24th please make arrangements to get it to your coach before April 7th.

REMINDER TO ALL COACHES: The equipment return is scheduled for Saturday, April 7th 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 23rd**, at pizza time and **Saturday, April 1st from 9:00am to 5:00pm**.

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. The cost will be \$240.00. **The cheques can be post dated no later than August 15, 2018.** The deadline for registration is Sept 15, anyone registering after that day will pay \$260 and registration will only be accepted if there is space in the group.

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 in August 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 lower 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 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 August 15th. With kindest regards!

With being an organization that is run by volunteers **we are always lookingfor more volunteers** such as referees, time keepers, coaches, board members etc. There are openings on the Board, We are also in need of volunteer referees and time keepers both adult and students. (Note: Volunteer hours by high school students are valid volunteer hours). 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 3 executive members next year that no longer have children playing in the league. The time commitment is minimal when shared; there is an average of 3 to 4 meetings per season. There needs to be a continuous influx of new volunteers if this league is going to continue long term into the future for the next generation of children.

There have been so many volunteers over our 18season history that need and hopefully have been thanked but today I want to say a special thank you to our many volunteers, coaches referees and board members that have made this season possible, As Rick finishes his first year in the role of vice president I would like to thank him for his dedication, energy and enthusiasm. It is very much appreciated .

It has been difficult to retain referees in major due to the verbal abuse and lack the 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, the players 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 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 spectator's to come and cheer the players on but if you come and are disrespectful to coaches and referees' then it would be preferred that you did watch the game not to mention the example of poor sportsmanship is unacceptable. For any spectators that are not respectful, are overreacting and out of control, they will be asked to leave the arena. If they continue the unacceptable behavior outside they will be asked to leave the property as is the right of the organization with the support of the municipality and Strathroy Caradoc Police will be called for assistance.

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.

There will be a **Board/Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 26, 2018 at 7:30pm at Crabby Joes**. 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.***

Again 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