



## ONTARIO WOMEN'S HOCKEY ASSOCIATION 2008-2009

In the 34 years of the Ontario Women's Hockey Association, there have been successes both on and off the scoreboard. Tens of thousands have enjoyed the participation, the competition and the friendships. This season features many highlights.

### **INTEGRITY & HONESTY \* FUN \* EXCELLENCE \* FAIR PLAY \* EQUITY \* GOOD CITIZENSHIP**

We would love to hear from you and publish these positive experiences on our web site. Please email or fax examples of these Values so we can share them.

#### **IMPORTANT NOTE – HELMETS**

**HELMETS** – It is mandatory that ALL on-ice staff wear a properly fastened CSA approved helmet at all times when on the ice. In the last week, OWHA representatives observed two team practices where helmets were not worn. A high level coach in Alberta died this year as a result of hitting his head on the ice at a practice. There have been other deaths and very serious injuries. We point out that the wearing of helmets is mandatory and advise all OWHA members that there is zero tolerance of violations. This is both a safety and insurance issue. In addition, it is the responsibility of team staff to set the example for its players. Anyone who does not wear a properly fastened helmet will be immediately suspended (Reference OWHA 3008-2009 Handbook, page F-11). This bulletin is the warning.

#### **IMPORTANT NOTICE – HOCKEY CANADA DECISIONS - OWHA PILOT PROJECT**

The Ontario Women's Hockey Association has expressed serious concerns regarding some decisions involving female hockey that have been made by Hockey Canada. The Senior National Championship was cancelled despite the OWHA and others voicing our concerns.

A controversial decision was made by Hockey Canada to add a National Female Midget Championship. There will be an event held in Calgary, Alberta from April 19<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Quebec has chosen not to participate this year. Participating teams will be Pacific (winner of BC & Alberta), West (winner of Saskatchewan & Manitoba), OWHA, Atlantic (winner of NB, PEI, NS and Newfoundland), and a host team from Alberta. After much debate, the OWHA has agreed to participate this year only. If the event continues next year, we will reassess our position.

**IMPORTANT CHANGE TO 2009 OWHA MIDGET AA PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS. The 2009 Midget AA Championships will be held the weekend of March 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> at Westwood Arena in Toronto. The winner of this Championship will move on to represent the OWHA at the National Championship in Alberta.**

#### **IMPORTANT NOTICE – ONTARIO WINTER GAMES CHANGES – OWHA PILOT PROJECT**

The Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion (MHP) has made major revisions to the Ontario Winter Games program. There are two categories for sports to be accepted for participation within the Games. Core sports are the priority with acceptance dependent on compliance with long term athlete development. The OWHA met with MHP representatives and has made changes to its OWG process. We are pleased to report that we have been accepted as a Core Sport in the 2010 Ontario Winter Games. There will be an OWHA-wide selection process to select players (13 or 14 as of December 31, 2009), coaches and team staff to participate on one of 8 teams. Applications and full eligibility requirements for players and staff will be posted on the OWHA web site by late February. Preliminary selection/development camps will take place in the spring/summer of 2009. Please advise players and staff who might be interested to watch the OWHA web site for information on this programme.

#### **IMPORTANT NOTE – SANCTIONED HOCKEY**

OWHA participants and teams may NOT participate in unsanctioned hockey games, events, programs and other activities. It has come to our attention that organizations such as iTRAINHOCKEY, CARHA and Canlan may have been in contact with OWHA members promoting non-sanctioned hockey programs. Please make sure your team members are aware that they may not participate in non-sanctioned activities. These activities are not covered by OWHA/Hockey Canada insurance and they do not have the benefit of this membership. Outside organizations may have their own insurance but this is very different to coverage offered through the OWHA/Hockey Canada. It is imperative that your members only participate in OWHA sanctioned activities.

**IMPORTANT NOTE – OWHA HANDBOOK**

Article Seven (F) was amended at the OWHA 2008 AGM. Please be reminded that no House League team may change categories from House League to competitive after December 31<sup>st</sup>. Any combination of house league players forming competitive teams must have been rostered & registered prior to December 31, 2008.

**BULLYING, CYBER-BULLYING, INTERNET**

Bullying, cyber-bullying and the use of the email and the internet for negative comments and disrespect are of serious concern for the OWHA. The circulation of emails and text messages and public postings that criticize individuals, teams, associations and the OWHA are a violation of the OWHA Code of Conduct and will be dealt with accordingly. It is an organization that has been built with integrity and positive values. It is of no benefit to publicly criticize any individual or group of individuals. We have seen too many cases where young girls and other people have been publicly humiliated and are suffering very serious personal grief as a result of individual emails, text messages and postings. It is imperative that every team and association take action to inform their members of these dangerous and cowardly actions that are counter-productive to the positive promotion of female hockey.

**CONGRATULATIONS TEAM ONTARIO RED AND BLUE**

Two teams represented the OWHA at the National Under 18 Challenge in Napanee, Ontario. Team Red went through the competition undefeated, winning the gold medals! Sincere congratulations to all team members on an outstanding performance! Congratulations to Team Blue who represented the OWHA with excellence. The Blue Team's performance was a highlight of the championship. The team finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in its pool with its only loss in overtime against Team Ontario Red. They went on to play Team Quebec in the semi-final where an overtime loss prevented an all-Ontario final. The team ended up 4<sup>th</sup>, losing to Team Manitoba in the bronze medal game. We thank the Napanee community for its work on the event.

**ACTION NOTICE - TEAM/ASSOCIATION/LEAGUE LOGO and LINKS**

If you have not already done so, please forward your logo. The OWHA logo should be prominently displayed on your web site. If you require a copy of the OWHA logo for display and link on your web site, please let us know.

**ACTION NOTICE – HISTORY OF FEMALE HOCKEY**

Girls and women have played hockey since 1891. We are creating a section on our web site for Celebrating the History of Female Hockey. What is the history of your team/association? If you have any stories, pictures, anecdotes, etc. from the past – even dating back to pre 1900 – please pass them along. If you send pictures, please make sure you send along written approval of those in the picture and approval from the photographer. Approval should include agreement for these to be posted on the OWHA web site and also to be published in OWHA documents. Thank you!

**IMPORTANT DATES**

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
Feb 20-22, 2009	OWHA Intermediate Provincial Championships	Brampton, Ontario
March 21, 2009	CWHL – WWHL Championships	Ontario
March 24, 2009	Deadline for OWHA Proposed Amendments Deadline for Nominations to OWHA Executive Committee	Deadline for Receipt in OWHA Office
Mar 27-29, 2009	OWHA Midget AA Provincial Championship	Westwood Arena, Toronto
Apr 4- 12, 2009	2009 IIHF Women's World Hockey Championship	Hameenlinna, Finland
Apr 19-25, 2009	Midget National Championship	Calgary, Alberta
Apr 17-19, 2009	Provincial Championships Novice, Atom, Peewee, Bantam, Midget A, BB, B, C, Senior AA, A, BB, B,C	Etobicoke / Brampton Mississauga / Newmarket
May 22, 2009	OWHA Golf Tournament	Huntsville
May 23, 2009	OWHA Annual General Meeting	Deerhurst Inn, Huntsville

**INTEGRITY & HONESTY \* FUN \* EXCELLENCE \* FAIR PLAY \* EQUITY \* GOOD CITIZENSHIP**

**ONTARIO WOMEN'S HOCKEY ASSOCIATION**

**#3 – 5155 Spectrum Way, Mississauga, Ontario L4W 5A1**

**Phone: (905) 282-9980 Fax: (905) 282-9982**

**Game Sheet Fax: (905) 282-0499**

**info@owha.on.ca**

**www.owha.on.ca**