

EYHA Board Update - Continual Improvement Feb.24.05

ICE

What ice does EYHA want/need this spring, summer, fall, and for the 06/07 regular season...and at what locations?

- Spring 2006 - No ice needed at any location.
- Summer 2006 - This ice is already scheduled. There will be FIVE 3 hr. sessions every Wednesday @ PNIC, July 26th, Aug. 2,9,16,& 23. This ice is not covered in EYHA regular season ice fee's.
 - Great improvements for EYHA in this area last summer by Tom Sagissor and Jeff Hawthorne. Keep it going!
- Fall 2006 - Same as September 2005. This is considered EYHA's "pre-season" and is included in the regular season ice fee's.
- Regular Season 06/07 - Same as for the 05/06 season with some additions and consolidation of ice to The Ponds and PNIC. EYHA is projecting 12+ teams during 06/07...one Mini Mite, three Mites, three Squirts, three PW's, and two Bantams...and potentially adding one WAHA HS team. The WAHA HS team would allow kids in the area that are U-18 and have not made an area high school or JV team the chance to continue playing hockey. This is being researched by Rob Perry and EYHA's current Bantam coaches and Level Director. They are to be surveying potential players and responding back to us at our March board meeting.

I have met with **Rob Perry (Ponds of Brookfield)** a number of times in the past few weeks in addition to **Tom Z (PNIC) and the Executive Director of the PNIC**. Most recently, last week, Jeff Hawthorne joined me in meeting with these people.

The **Perry/Ponds** talks are no different than they have been in the recent past. The Ponds is literally months ahead in their ice scheduling this year. There is no additional Ponds ice available unless we are to buy ice that is "out of season" and/or out of our memberships desired ice times. The only additional ice potentially being purchased at The Ponds would be "in season" practice ice for a WAHA HS team. This ice would be once or twice per week (mid-week) at approximately 6:00am to 7:00am. Additional game ice would need to be found for this team. A combination of ice at The Ponds and PNIC would most likely be needed in order to support this new team. All other EYHA ice at The Ponds would basically remain as we had it during the 2005 September pre-season and the 05/06 regular season.

The PNIC is committed to maintaining EYHA ice at the same levels as during the summer of 05 and the 05/06 regular season. However, they (Tom & Cindy) are currently pulling together their best options for increasing our ice usage with them. The goal is to move our West Bend (Bantam) ice to The PNIC...and more...if possible. Details on this are to be available by early-to-mid March.

On-Ice

Hopefully EYHA will be able to stay the course in the future of keeping our team rosters low in number, our practice ice sessions at (or above) 2 per week, with practice sessions being on average 60 to 70 minutes in length for Squirts, PW's, and Bantams, and 45 to 60 minutes for Mini Mites and Mites. We did what we could to get our oldest kids as many full ice practices as possible in 05/06. This should continue to be a high priority.

As best we can we will stay close to home...with our #1 *home rink* being The Ponds and #2 *home rink* being The PNIC. EYHA should always be in the best standing possible with all area rinks and rink management. This is no doubt this is in our association's best interest.

The proper usage of the ice we have needs to remain a priority. We can continue to do this by selecting the best coaches we have available, training and mentoring those coaches, and always being on the search for additional quality coaches. This is taking place. Coaches meetings, training sessions, implementation of twice per year coach/manager surveys by parents, and an EYHA player evaluation form have helped us. Misc. things like our Summer Ice, Pre-Season Ice, Hot Shot 5,000 Club, web site library, goalie/shooting cage, "slide board program", and Cruikshank sessions are also helping us improve on-ice. --- See Jeff Hawthorne for further details.

We need to continue to use our Summer Ice, Pre-season Ice, and the month of March for improved "Skill Sessions". It's tough during mid-season to do much more than we have with our ice, but we can continue our improvements on-ice during the off-season.

This is an On and Off Ice issue, but...one area we have not done a great deal with in the past 10 months is furthering our connection with Ponds, Pettit, and Eble Learn-To-Skate programs, the community Park & Rec's, and elementary schools. This is something we need a "Play Hockey" team of EYHA volunteers to improve upon. I was referring to this yet-to-be-developed team as our "Grassroots Team"...as that is what USA Hockey refers to them as. Nobody liked that name. OK, so what do you think of establishing a "Play Hockey" team, a team leader, and getting them focused on creating more young hockey players in the communities we serve?

Off-Ice

\$\$\$'S - Past and current EYHA Board has yet to establish an EYHA "financial plan", discuss it, implement it, and make our membership aware of it. *This is a current EYHA board failure.* EYHA remains financially healthy and as a board have served our members well since June of 2005. However, a well planned, implemented, and known financial plan must be #1 on the incoming EYHA's Off-Ice "to do list".

Jim, Dwaine, Bill - I have not heard from you on the "financial plan" issue recently. Do you still plan on tackling this in March/April/May?

05/06 ice fee's were planned as best they could be and assigned very well. Our only financial loss was due to late ice schedule changes on the part of The Ponds which we had not accounted for.

EYHA's "ice, training, and experience for the dollar" during the 05/06 season was once again very competitive with any association in our area.

A long list of Off-ice improvements have been put in place and are continuing to evolve. Hat's off to all that have helped and continue to help with these things. To name a few..

- 501 c 3!
- www.elmbrookyouthhockey.org
- Future on-line registration
- Welcome Folders
- Review and implementation of an improved volunteer policy
- More communication regarding volunteer opportunities
- Member surveys
- Fund raising review and upgrades
- Partnership with Ref/Officials training
- Improved forms
- Continued Policy & Procedure reviews and improvements
- First Aid Kits in every puck bag w/emergency contact phone numbers
- Hot Shot 5,000 Club
- Shooting/Goalie Cage installment, training, usage
- EYHA Annual Golf/Dinner party improvements
- Admirals Event improvements
- BHS/EYHA Night improvements
- Tournament improvements and documentation
- EYHA Directory improvements for the future
- Creation of a "Volunteer Coordinator" position
- April 30th registration day improvements

As a board we're on a positive track. It's been a good year, but we still have 3+ months left to finish off strong and set up our association, membership, and future board members for continued success.

See you all on March 9th at our next board meeting!

Tim Fox



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