



June 17, 2020

Dear SMHA families and friends, I hope this letter finds everyone staying safe and doing well through this unprecedented time.

Usually when you hear from me it is in the Glenbrook gym at the yearend banquet and everyone is excited to see who wins awards and we celebrate the end of the hockey year and all its accomplishments. Considering that we had an All Ontario champion, and several teams playing for league championships in the rep and local league levels, we had a lot to celebrate and it is unfortunate that we never got the opportunity to do so.

I wish I could tell you that hockey will start up and run as usual in September but there are new mandatory protocols being put in place by Hockey Canada, OHF and OMHA that will significantly change minor hockey next year. If you read through the documents from the Ontario Hockey Federation and Hockey Canada on the SMHA website it will provide you with insight as to how the 2020/2021 season may unfold. SMHA is in complete agreement with OHF/OMHA and their stance on the necessity of ensuring a safe environment for our members and their families in the current COVID-19 environment and the importance of following the directives of the Ontario Government and our local Public Health Authority. The new protocols are going to have a significant affect on SMHA operations, and the following is what we are working to understand;

- Monitoring/policing requirements for players, volunteers and spectators to ensure protocols are being met
- Degree of increased hours of ice time needed to accommodate new protocols
- Degree of increased number of volunteers needed to run SMHA, and a higher time commitment required per volunteer
- Additional time commitments required by coaches and bench staff to accommodate significant reduction in allowable players on the ice
- Increases in facilities management expectations to ensure clean and safe environments
- Increased costs per member due to above changes
- General risks and liability being assumed by SMHA and CDRC
- Expected levels of sponsorship and door revenues
- Etc...

Our volunteer executive is staying in close contact with the OMHA to get the all new and updated information as it comes available, to help us assess the above questions. The SMHA is also staying in contact with the CDRC to understand costs and how/if the mandatory protocols can be met and if they have any additional protocols we must meet in order to use the facility.

Our association has been very fortunate over the years with having great support from the SMHA families and that continued support will be needed over the next few months. We have

several challenges ahead of us in order to move forward with the 2020/2021 season and our hopes are that we will be able to find a solution that;

- 1) Is affordable for our member families
- 2) Provides a level of hockey (and a general hockey experience) that is enticing to our members
- 3) Asks for a reasonable commitment from our volunteers (coaches, parent volunteers, execs, etc)
- 4) Is affordable for SMHA and CDRC

As mentioned, SMHA is working diligently to understand how these new protocols will affect our ability to run our program and we will keep you all informed as we make progress. The SMHA will also keep our members apprised of all new information we receive from OMHA as it comes available. Until then, please be safe and try to make the most of these difficult times.

Best Regards,

Dean Baird

President, Shelburne Minor Hockey Association