



GGHA Membership Newsletter



February 2015

Here we are in February and approaching the home stretch of the season. Rep teams are in playoffs and provincial playdowns, and our house league teams are looking ahead to their Championship Day on March 29. For the most up-to-date information on everything that is happening at the GGHA, be sure to always check the website at www.ggha.com.

GGHA Needs YOU!!

The GGHA is always in need of volunteers. There are lots of great ideas, but we often lack the "hands" to make them all happen. Consider being a member of our Board of Directors, or simply volunteer on a project-basis. There will be a number of open Board positions available for next season.



Think about volunteering your time as a Board member, and watch our next newsletter for a list of positions that will become available for the 2015-16 season. We are also always looking for people who can just pitch in and help with specific projects, such as the tournament, House League Championship Day, "Come try Hockey" day, to name just a few. If you are interested in helping out in any capacity, please speak to any current Board member or email info@ggha.com.

Exciting Changes to House League for 2015-16 Season!



We are excited to announce that for next season, our Novice, Atom and Peewee house league teams will be part of the Local League, which includes Waterloo, Cambridge, Kitchener, Grand River, Woolwich, Ayr and Stratford, to name a few centres. This will benefit our members, because we will be able to offer 1 or more teams at each age group, rather than having to combine groups. Your girls will be playing with and against teams of their own age, which is a big positive for player development and enjoyment of the game. Here are a few answers to your FAQs:

Q - Why would we join the local league when we have always had our own house league program?

A – Particularly at the younger age groups, we often have to combine novice-age players with atom-age players, or even atom-age with peewee age, on the same team. In some cases, this can be an age gap of 4 years from the youngest to the oldest. We recognize this situation is not ideal and can be very intimidating for the younger players just starting out their hockey careers. This move will allow us to have separate teams for each age group. We feel this is in the best interest of our players and their enjoyment of the game.

Q – Who runs the local league and how did we get involved?

A – The Kitchener Minor Hockey Association administers this league and associations must apply and be accepted in order to participate. We were officially welcomed into the league in early February and GGHA will appoint a league liaison to represent our association at their meetings held 2-3 times throughout the season.

Q – I don't want to have to travel to other centres. I signed my daughter up for house league to avoid that.

A – We understand that for a small number of families, this may be an inconvenience. However, we feel that the benefits to our players far outweigh any travel concerns. Consider that you will still have home ice for weekly practices and half of your games will be home games. While parents may hesitate to travel, our experience is that the girls LOVE the idea of travelling to new arenas to play. It is an exciting change of pace for them and one that they will remember.

Q – How far might we have to go for a game?

A – For the current season, the local league includes teams from Waterloo, Twin Centre, Ayr, Woolwich, Cambridge, Wilmot, Grand River, Milverton, Stratford and Kitchener. All centres do not have teams in all age groups. Most games take place on weekends, unless the centres are very close together.

Q – Why are we not entering Bantam/Senior age groups in local league?

A – We currently have a large number of players in these age groups and are able to offer a robust house league experience for this group. Teams to be included in local league will be assessed on a season by season basis, based on projected registration and success of the initiative.

Q – What are some other advantages of joining the local league?

A – There are a number of other great reasons for us to join local league:

- 1) **Pooling for better competition** For the first half of the season, games are scheduled up to Christmas (minimum 10 games). At that time, teams are pooled within their age group (A/B/C), based on their results and for the remainder of the season, they will only play teams within their pool. This allows for fair competition among teams of similar abilities.
- 2) **Cripps Tournament** This local league tournament is held over Christmas and is optional for teams to compete in. No additional team fee is required and pools are based on season results as of Dec 1. This past year, 75 teams participated in this fun event. This is a great opportunity for all of our house league teams to participate in a tournament if they wish.
- 3) **Year End Championships** Playoffs are held within pools with the top two teams in each pool progressing to the year-end championship day.

Q – How do I sign my daughter up for local league? Do I need to do anything different?

A – Absolutely nothing changes in the way you sign your daughter up. Simply use our online registration system at www.ggha.com to sign up for GGHA's house league program and we will take care of the rest of the details.

We hope you are all as excited as we are about this great opportunity for our girls. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact info@ggha.com.

House League News

Save the date – Championship Day March 29. Details to follow!

Watch your inbox – House League survey coming soon!

Consider coaching – Shortly we will be looking for coaches for next year's house league program. Sign up to be part of our exciting inaugural year in the local league!

Bantam A Manager - Julie Blamauer Nominated in Cisco's Hidden Hockey Heroes!

GGHA member Julie Blamauer, has been nominated and deemed a weekly winner in the Cisco campaign Hockey's Hidden Heroes! Julie is the mother of 4 and the manager of our Bantam A hockey team. She also volunteers her time as the GGHA ice scheduler. To find out more about Julie click this [link](#) and read her nomination.

Help us make Julie a finalist by going on Facebook and voting.

1 Like = 1 Vote

1 Share = 2 Votes!

Support this amazing Gryphon volunteer by voting.

<https://www.facebook.com/CiscoCanada/photos/a.10152900795094301.1073741845.46109859300/10153046587664301/?type=1&theater>

Junior Gryphon Newsletter

Click on the link below to access the U of G's Jr. Gryphon Newsletter for February.

<http://us3.campaign-archive2.com/?u=49d0d520bbcb87824eb04d8d9&id=27a68c64f0&e=97ca9c6687>

