



## ONTARIO WOMEN'S HOCKEY ASSOCIATION 2009-2010

Congratulations to all members of the OWHA for their participation in the 35th year of the Ontario Women's Hockey Association. There are 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 REMINDER – HELMETS**

It is mandatory that ALL on-ice staff wear a properly fastened CSA approved helmet at all times when on the ice. There have been deaths and very serious injuries when not wearing a helmet. 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 2009-2010 Handbook, page F-11). This bulletin is the warning.

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

The Ontario Women's Hockey Association worked with the Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion (MHP) due to the major revisions of the Ontario Winter Games program. We were accepted as a Core Sport due to our 2009/10 programme. Over 450 players participated in the camps where there were on-ice sessions as well as off-ice sessions on training, fitness, nutrition, opportunities and mental training. In addition, a parent session was held at each camp. One hundred and sixty players have been selected to participate in the 2010 Games. Applications for Coaches and Trainers/Equipment Managers are posted on the OWHA web site. Please share this information with anyone who may be interested.

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

OWHA participants and teams may NOT participate in unsanctioned hockey games, events, programs and other activities. Please make sure your team members are aware that they cannot 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.

#### **BULLYING, CYBER-BULLYING, INTERNET, PRIVACY**

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.

Be Careful what information you release for scouting or other purposes. Remember nothing is private once you put it on the internet

- Once it's there....it's there for life
- Be sure to seek the consent of the athlete and their parents prior to releasing any information
- It can have serious detrimental consequences
- Keeping players safe...Limit the amount of information you release
- Only put what is absolutely necessary and ensure athletes and their parents sign off on the information you plan to publish

Refrain from publishing...anything that would identify them and bring a predator right to their doorstep...

- Date of birth
  - Location
  - School
  - Actual Name of Athlete
  - Stick to stats and refrain from...publishing anything that could bring embarrassment or humiliation to the athlete...such as Academic grades.
  - The release of this information often causes great distress particularly if the grades are not very good.
  - Many become so distressed and often to the point of being suicidal
- Intimidating Conduct...Do not participate in activities that involve bullying or cyber bullying
- Do not participate in Blogging or making comments on social networking websites regarding the legitimacy of allegations, guilt or innocence of anyone
  - Understand that making threats or intimidating someone in this manner is a crime
  - Discourage parents and others from engaging in this type of behaviour
  - **REMAIN PROFESSIONAL**

### **CONGRATULATIONS TEAM ONTARIO RED AND BLUE – GOLD AND SILVER MEDALISTS**

Two teams represented the OWHA at the National Under 18 Challenge in Surrey, British Columbia. Team Red went through the competition undefeated, winning the gold. Team Blue won all its games except when it faced Team Ontario Red. The Championship game, televised on TSN, was an All-Ontario event with Team Ontario Red capturing gold and Team Ontario Blue taking silver! Congratulations to both teams.

Congratulations also to Team Ontario Red's Jamie Lee Rattray - Tournament Top Forward and Shannon Doyle – Tournament Top Defence and to Team Ontario Blue's Amanda Lucky – Tournament Most Sportsmanlike Player.

### **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. Thank you!

### **ONTARIO WOMEN'S HOCKEY ASSOCIATION AGM**

The OWHA AGM will be held Saturday, May 15, 2010 at the Best Western Hotel in Brantford, Ontario. Golf will in Brantford on Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. Please be advised that any proposed amendments and nominations MUST be received in the OWHA office no later than Tuesday, March 16, 2010.

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

| DATE              | EVENT                                                                                  | LOCATION                      |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sep 26, 2009      | OWHA General Meeting                                                                   | Stage West Hotel, Mississauga |
| Nov 4-8, 2009     | 2009 Women's Under-18 National Championship                                            | Surrey, B.C.                  |
| Feb 13-25, 2010   | Winter Olympic Games                                                                   | Vancouver, B.C.               |
| Feb 19-21, 2010   | Provincial Championship Intermediate AA, A, BB, B, C                                   | Brampton                      |
| March 4-7, 2010   | Ontario Winter Games                                                                   | Baysville                     |
| March 28, 2010    | Clarkson Cup – CWHL vs WWHL                                                            | TBA                           |
| Apr 9-11, 2010    | Provincial Championships<br>Novice, Atom, Peewee, Bantam, Midget, Senior AA, A, BB B,C | GTA, Newmarket                |
| April 18-24, 2010 | Esso Cup                                                                               | Regina, Saskatchewan          |
| May 14, 2010      | OWHA Golf Tournament                                                                   | Brantford                     |
| May 15, 2010      | Annual General Meeting                                                                 | Best Western, Brantford       |

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**ONTARIO WOMEN'S HOCKEY ASSOCIATION**

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