



NEWSLETTER

Issue 2008.03 (March 2008)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rob Serpa - serpa14@comcast.net

The season is winding down and hopefully everyone has enjoyed their season as much as I have. I realize this may not have been the smoothest year for everyone involved, but like I mentioned way back in September, most of us were new to all this.

Lots of people stepped up to help make this season a success. I'd hate to call anyone out by name with fear of missing someone. I will, however, say that our skills program was a huge success! The players improved, the coaches learned new drills and we got some outside interest in the program. I also still get compliments about our Turkey Shoot tournament. Teams and families were very well received at Hetland and really enjoyed the atmosphere! Some have even said it was the best tournament they attended all year. Our Coaches vs. Police game was awesome. It was fun to play in and good to see the arena packed with spectators. It's also great to see people helping out with our upcoming Squirt C Mass. State Tournament. Thank you to all involved!!!

I wouldn't be a good coach without saying something about my Mites. The kids improved every time we took the ice and smiled the entire time. We were fortunate and won many more games than we lost and the kids displayed great sportsmanship. YD got the better of us and won our Turkey Shoot - we took Runner-Up. We then lost a heart breaking, double overtime game in the semi-finals of the Jingle Bell tournament in Marlboro. The kids fought hard in the Rhode Island league and will finish the year in second place. Coming up March 7th, we'll take the ice before a Providence Bruins game, at the Dunk. Then, in mid-April, we'll play our last few games together when we compete in the Coca Cola tournament in Marlboro. I'm very proud of the players, not only as hockey players, but for being great kids as well!!

Finally, I would like to welcome Bryan Safioleas to the Board as Vice President. His current involvement at Hetland as a parent, coach, and skills coordinator will be a valuable asset to the Board and the organization. Thank you Bryan for your valuable time and commitment.

**WANT TO COACH??
LET US KNOW BY MARCH 10th!**

If you are interested in coaching a team for the 2008-2009 season please let us know by **Monday, March 10th**. We would like to have an idea of the coaching team prior to evaluations.

Rob Serpa
(serpa14@comcast.net)

Steve Sullivan
(skates8690@comcast.net)

ACCOUNT'S RECEIVABLE UPDATE
Renee Shorrock - rtsshore@netzero.net

There has been lots of talk around the rink about Billing. If you have concerns and/or suggestions the appropriate place to voice them is at the regularly scheduled board meetings. It is the only way to help make improvements to the Hetland Panthers Youth Hockey Association (HPYHA).

The absolute last thing the Board wants to do is remove a child from the ice. While most HPYHA families have paid their tuitions in full, ***there are some who have paid nothing and have made no contact at all in regard to paying.*** The Board has no choice but to take action to collect the outstanding funds. ***ALL Tuition for the 07-08 season should have been Paid In Full by October 31, 2007.*** The original pull-date for non-payment was November 1, 2007 but the Board decided to allow families an additional 2-months through the Holiday's to contact accounts receivable to make payments and/or arrangements. Despite this additional time some families have still paid nothing and have made no contact for arrangements.

HPYHA relies on tuition to survive. Tuition allows us to pay for the ice. If we do not pay the ice bill the rink will be closed to us by the State and HPYHA will be no longer.

In order to deal with financial shortcomings due to unpaid tuitions, HPYHA billing is going to be handled in a more businesslike manner now and in the future. The majority of youth hockey associations require families to prepay before the season even starts. If on the first day of the season you haven't paid in full you do not skate. HPYHA has been very accomodating allowing kids on the ice before tuition is paid in full and allowing parents' time to pay. The Board has kept the doors open for the children to play while keeping tuition as low as possible. Unfortunately a few have chosen to take advantage of our approach and have subsequently forced us into taking a hard line.

Evaluations are scheduled for March 17th to March 24th. We will not have evaluations on Good Friday or Easter Sunday. If you have any unpaid balance and have not made payment arrangements you will not be allowed to participate in evaluations.

In addition to the procedures followed by HPHYA, USA Hockey rules prohibit playing in another hockey organization without a financial release waiver. If you wish to play elsewhere and still owe HPHYA money we can notify that organization of your balance and not provide the waiver.

I hope this letter provides a better understanding as to what has been going on and what to expect in the future. I take a lot of pride in my professionalism and privacy with each family's billing at HPYHA. What is told to me stays in confidence so please do not hesitate to let me know what is going on so we can avoid any unfortunate circumstances.

**STATE TOURNAMENT
COMING TO HETLAND
THIS WEEKEND!**

**Publicity
Melissa Hoefel –
mhoefel@comcast.net**

By now you should have been approached to help out at this weekend's tournament. If you have not please contact Cindy Viera at Cindy_Viera@AcushnetGolf.com as soon as possible. It doesn't take much time to help but it makes a **huge** difference in the success of the tournament. If you need additional information contact Cindy, your team parent or me at (508)992-2032 or the email above.

This tournament gives us the opportunity to raise substantial money for our organization. Even if your child is not skating in the tournament it is in your interest to help. Money raised at this event goes back to all of Hetland. The more we raise at events like this the less we pay in the fall!!

OPEN BOARD SEATS!

The HPYHA Annual Meeting is in April. The date will be posted as soon as it is determined. As with all Board Meetings Hetland parents are invited and encouraged to attend. At the Annual Meeting we vote in the Board for upcoming season. If you are interested in running for a position on the Board please contact any current Board member.

EVALUATIONS!

Evaluations have been scheduled for March 17th through March 24th. We will not hold evaluations on Good Friday or Easter Sunday. The times of the evaluations will be sent by email and posted at the rink and on the website as soon as they are established.

If you have concerns regarding the evaluation process or are unable to attend these dates please contact Steve Sullivan, Rob Serpa or Bryan Safioleas.

Remember if you have an unpaid balance and have not made payment arrangements with Renee you will not be allowed to evaluate.