



President's Message

Good Day Everyone,

I wanted to send a note out before all our players venture into the wild world of tryouts.

To our Players. I will tell you the same thing I tell my own kids. We don't expect perfection, we just expect your best. Go out there, rock it and leave the ice with no regrets. You know what you can do. Show us what you have and have fun while you're doing it! If you do this, you are setting yourself up for success.

To our Parents. Support the players and fortify the confidence they have inside to push themselves to where they need to be. Success is subjective. Its not always making top levels, it's achieving the goals that the players pick. Let them decide what they are and talk about it with them.

I will end on tryouts with this. Please read the Tryout explainer document. This should answer most of the questions that may come up. Please understand, players will be ranked on the evaluation system (points). Once teams are full, they are full. For example, if we have 2 teams at any level, we will have 17 players per team (on average). So, the first 34 players at that level will be placed there. Sometimes there is a point separating the players. The first 34 get it. There is no slight again ANY players, but it will be the same test for all players (which is in the document). We will also be reviewing the divisional levels as stated before at the AGM. But there are many factors that come into deciding the number of teams. I will say that a consistent rumor I've been hearing is we will only have 1 team per division at all levels. I'm not sure where that came from. That's not the case. We will be assessing the feasibility of teams based on the scores from tryouts. There may be a division level with 1, I'm not sure, but absolutely not all. To end, please be respectful. While emotions can run high at this time, abuse is not part of the process.

This season we are setting up to be able to return more to our players. This will be the first year with our Technical Director. Jordan is excited to get on the ice and work with our players and Coaches. We feel this will make a big difference on the development of our membership.

Our first piece with this was our Conditioning Camp. We can say this was a great success and the demand was overwhelming. In the end, we did have to close the doors. We were able to get 300+ kids on the ice for this program. This does show the demand for programs, and I will be working with our Hockey Standards Profile to explore other camps and potentially specialty clinics outside our included development.

We also had an outstanding return on our membership survey have tried our best to make improvements where able. To add to this, we welcome the addition of Michelle Flanagan who will take on the role of Director of Membership Experience. We will work with the membership and reach out throughout the season to gain feedback on programs and events on how we can make things better.

On that note, we want to ensure that we are transparent with the membership. There are many times where we hear things that are part of regulation well outside of the umbrella of MWF. This would put us in a compliance position where some believe we are responsible for any specific event happening. I will say, please reach out and we will be happy provide a response to you. Clarifying a misinterpretation can most times end a pile of misguided frustration. Believe it or not, sometimes the Board is just as frustrated as the Membership.

This would be a great time to segway into the scheduling. We mentioned this in our AGM as well. We have been ensured that there are efforts to stop what happened last year and maximize games on away trips. These are arranged by League (HNS) Schedulers, not MWF. Our role is to provide ice for home games. We understand that the last schedule was a rough one.

I will always end on a positive note. We do have a few things up our sleeve that will be awesome for the membership. I won't say what, as I don't want to take away from our awesome Board members that work hard in their roles to produce the best to our membership. One thing I will let out that was a HUGE success was that our Force Cup will be running again this year!

So, stand by and we will get more info out to you as soon as we possibly can. I look forward to seeing everyone at the rink and our players on the ice!

Thanks,

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Tim Sheppard
President, Metro West Force