

# BLACKHAWKS

Dear Blackhawk Families,

*Welcome back!!! We are so excited to be see each of you and be able to offer a much more "normal" hockey experience for your 2021-2022 season!*

## **Some good news to share....**

- Ice times/Schedules are uploaded to our website, our "Official Season Start" is October 15<sup>th</sup>. The Lambton Middlesex Local League will begin league play on or after October 15<sup>th</sup>
- Our Coaches and Bench Staff have been selected and will be announced by each Coach and added to our PEMAA website @ [www.pointminor.ca](http://www.pointminor.ca)
- We have been told the Concession Stand will be opening! Being able to grab a coffee or arena fries makes for a much more authentic rink experience!

## **Fundraising:**

- We will be resuming "Meat Raffles" in October. Our Association will be assisting the Point Edward Optimist Club one draw per month throughout Oct – June and taking on the full Raffles for the summer months. We are excited to get back to Two Amigos for this fun and rewarding opportunity. Please reach out to Liz Page @ (519) 384-8794 via text if you are interested in being added to a list of folks willing to help with the raffles!
- In December, we will be doing the "Giresi's' Pizza Kit" fundraiser again! Last year, this fundraiser was wildly successful, and we have no doubt it will be equally fun and lucrative this year!

## **Payment:**

- Although last season was challenging for us financially, we felt it imperative to keep our registration fees stable. So many folks had unexpected financial impacts because of the pandemic, and we want to ensure hockey is as affordable as possible.

- We will be collecting payment in two installments. The first installment is due at your player's first ice time. We accept cash, cheque, or bank draft currently
- Cost of first installment \$250.00 for Point Edward Residents and \$275.00 for non-residents (note: U5 is \$125.00 and \$150.00 per installment due to single ice time)
- The second installment will be due in January
- The reason for the installments is to make it easier financially and to avoid having to manage refunds in the unfortunate event there is an interruption in programming – please visit our website for information pertaining to refunds
- If anyone has exceptional circumstances and wishes to discuss a more flexible payment plan or needs assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out – in confidence of course.

### **Info Around Screening/Vaccination**

You can expect more information around pre-screening, proof of vaccination (as per OMHA Mandated Vaccination Policy) and Municipal Guidelines for facility users to follow. The landscape continues to shift, and we want to provide you with the most accurate information available. Please continue to check our website [www.pointminor.ca](http://www.pointminor.ca) and our Facebook page as we update both regularly, with any important or pertinent information. We are awaiting clear direction from the Municipality and Province to avoid posting mixed messaging.

### **Tournaments:**

It is our hope our teams will be able to return to "tournament play" this season. The tournament experience has always been some of the most memorable moments for our players. Your Coaches are in the process of looking for appropriate options. Providing we are not restricted by COVID, we will be eager to compete!

### **Parent Involvement:**

If you are interested in being part of a parent committee that offers input, feedback, creative ideas and help with "the extras" please reach out to either Lynz Boston-Jackson, Erin Callahan, or Liz Page. We would love to see more folks become involved in making our program even better than it already is!

### **"New Look"**

As most of you are aware, prior to COVID, the Ontario Human Rights Commission contacted all sports teams in Ontario who had an Indigenous themed logo. Their directive was for Associations to begin the process of rebranding. COVID sidetracked our efforts to this end, and we became consumed with tracking, screening, and planning for the ever-changing protocol and restrictions. We have re-focused our efforts and are excited to announce, made some headway!

This season, your team "home and away" jerseys will be a "transitional" jersey. The jerseys are sharp...they will be black and red and feature our "Blackhawks" name... We are excited about the 2021-2022 game jerseys –they will eventually become PEMAA "practice jerseys" – replacing our current practice jerseys when we have a new permanent logo. Any new equipment, swag, banners, or communication will be adjusted this season, to ensure the Indigenous theme is retired. The unveiling of our "transitional" jersey will happen prior to our official season start, October 15<sup>th</sup>.

Please be assured, our "rebranding" is nowhere near complete. We are taking a "phased in" approach to allow us to be fiscally responsible and maintain stable registration fees. We WILL be engaging our membership and community, asking for ideas and feedback around permanent colours, name, and logo, you will have an opportunity to weigh in and offer your input!

We firmly believe this is the absolute right course of action. PEMAA is committed to inclusivity and respect and welcoming visitors into our rink and visiting other communities, we need to ensure we are appropriately conveying those values. Youth recreation sports should aspire to bring folks together...this gradual change need not be divisive. We anticipate a positive reaction from our membership and community. We thank you for your support and endorsement.

### **Final Comments:**

Lastly, please understand, PEMAA is working incredibly hard to follow the Provincial, Municipal and OMHA guidelines while continuing to offer the quality programming you have all come to love and expect. We understand there may be frustration related to tracking, restrictions, enforcement, communication etc. We ask that you keep in mind, we are a rather small group of volunteers doing our very best. Respectful communication is key. We will not tolerate any abusive language or behaviour. Instances involving such will be dealt with swiftly and appropriately. Our goal is to work collaboratively with parents, players, the Village, the rink staff and OMHA to ensure a safe and exciting hockey season. Please join us in our efforts! Looking forward to seeing each of you at the rink!

**Go Blackhawks!!**

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