



Dear Member,

Happy New Year! We are about to begin the next session of Thunderbird Hockey this weekend. I was very fortunate during our last session to have had the time to be on the ice with all of the teams and even got to see some playoff hockey. I can say that I am very proud of the level of play and the level of coaching that I saw.

In match ups with other clubs we not only had success at home but also on the road. Our U14 took Beijing by storm, sweeping their opponents 4-0. The team came away with 21 goals for and 2 against in a brilliant display of hockey. In late December, our U10 club skated in the first local Shanghai Tournament and impressed with their level of play and great sportsmanship. Finally, the U12 team stormed the ice against the Stars in the showdown at Songjiang. Overall, it was a great display of Shanghai Thunderbird Hockey!

Ice Time

However, the previous session was not without its challenges and required us all to work very hard together to provide a great experience for our players. I thank each and every one of you for your patience and understanding during these difficult few months. We are looking forward to this upcoming session and hoping that we will have a new arena to call home and far less worries over ice time, but as I write this note, all is not resolved.

Due to the lost ice time, we have accumulated a surplus of funds. The Executive Committee has discussed and considered various options regarding how to handle this unforeseen situation. At the moment, it has been decided to carry the surplus forward in order to be in a position to secure ice at the new arena. The surplus funds will allow us to react quickly to secure ice long term, if offered. Once the situation at the new arena is clarified, the Executive Committee will develop a plan to take the appropriate action to either rebate the Fall Session's surplus or communicate how these funds were applied at the new arena. As a result, Spring Session registration deposits were determined without regard to the current surplus and are based solely upon estimates for our organization's ice requirements for this upcoming session. Our Registrar, Lindsey Eliason, has sent notification of the Spring Session deposit and Team Managers are busy preparing.

Policy and Procedures

You are familiar with our P&P Manual. This document is evolving monthly and as we approach the start of the next session I want to bring your attention to the fact that we have some proposed amendments which will become articles in force at our next Executive Committee Meeting. These amendments have been approved by the Board and are waiting feedback from the Membership prior to being ratified and published as part of the Manual. All of these amendments are included in the Executive Committee Meeting minutes which are posted on the website.

In addition we have recognized the need for a policy which better defines those individuals who can act in an official capacity for the Association. The Executive Committee has reviewed other hockey association policies regarding the use of volunteers and have found ours lacking in our control of who is allowed to be on or near the "playing portion" of the facility. It is important that we not only maintain control over who coaches players, but also who acts in an official capacity or who has access to benches, penalty boxes, etc. during on-ice events. This article would state the following:

“ The Executive Committee will collect volunteer applications from those who wish to assist the Association during any organized event in any official capacity. The Executive Committee will then post a list of individuals who have been approved by the Committee to act in such a capacity. Team Managers and Coaches will only use individuals whose names appear on the list. Those people asked to act in an official capacity will be the only members allowed to be on the ice or at ice level in player’s benches, penalty boxes, time keeper’s boxes, or score keeper’s boxes during Shanghai Thunderbird events. ”

This amendment will now go through the required 30 day Feedback Period as per the P&P Manual. During this time we invite any and all Members to provide their feedback on this proposal.

As many of you all know, we had some key families and players move on at the end of last session. We will miss them, but I’m sure they’ll be wearing their Shanghai Thunderbird jerseys with pride as they join their new clubs. And this brings me to my next point, as the Spring Session kicks into gear let’s go out of our way to welcome the new families joining in the Shanghai Thunderbird community. We are an organization of volunteers and need everyone’s support, effort and participation to continue building a successful organization. In closing, and on behalf of the Executive Committee, I hope everyone had a safe, enjoyable and restful holiday break, but it’s time to begin another exciting session of Shanghai Thunderbird Hockey....see you at the rink!

Sincerely,

Kevin Parker
President