



JR. METEORS NEWS

Special Interest Articles:

- Pg 2 - Important safety info for helmets.
- Pg 4 - Info about 2009 trip to Denmark & call letter for resumes for coaching staff

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to everyone and I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas.

I would like to take this opportunity to discuss the topic of "Fair Play" versus "Equal Play". The issue has been raised in the form of complaints along with letters of information by some parents both in the Representative and House League Programs.

"Fair Play" is a universally understood concept which constitutes a conventional standard of honorable behavior and underpins every game we play. "Fair Play" is also a philosophy based on a conduct and attitude considered as befitting participants in sports and does not exclude Coaches. "Equal Play" says that all players have paid the same amount and therefore should play the same amount regardless of ability. This is impossible to maintain in a Representative or Select program on a game-to-game basis due to various situations such as penalties, injuries, illness, and other factors where specific players are called on to perform in specific roles. The House League program may be able to maintain an "Equal Play" philosophy on a game-to-game basis to a much greater degree however; it would be next to impossible for Coaches to guarantee "Equal Play" over the course of an entire season due to players missing games for a variety of reasons. Performance, expectations, and commitment levels are quite different for Representative / Select and House League players and do not allow nor would one expect that an "equal play" philosophy apply to both.

GFEMHA endorses a "Fair Play" philosophy for all participants in our Representative and Select Programs and encourage the Coaches of these teams to do their best in equalizing ice time over the course of a season.

With regards to House League, GFEMHA endorses an "Equal Play" philosophy for all participants and encourages the Coaches of House League teams to do their best in equalizing ice time over the course of each game. GFEMHA policies will be amended in the near future to appropriately convey the difference between "Equal Play" and "Fair Play".

Our game engages us in a collective effort to pursue human excellence, it's the Canadian way, but in the pursuit of that excellence we sometimes confuse "excellence" with "winning" and some may suffer as a result of a "win at any cost" philosophy. A "win at any cost" philosophy by a Coach will result in a detrimental experience for some players, their families, as well as players and Coaches from opposing teams. All participants; from players, Coaches, parents, spectators, and on-ice Officials suffer from this type of a philosophy. That being said; we are all human and none of us are without fault.

However, if you feel that someone is acting "less-than-human" with respect to Fair Play and Equal Play please contact me.

Yours in hockey,
 Reg Malott
 GFEMHA President

WHAT'S NEW?



IMPORTANT SAFETY TIP

Parents & players should check their helmets regularly to ensure that the helmet "J" clips (see illustration) are not missing or damaged. This very inexpensive clip secures the cage and can prevent injury by stopping the cage from moving too far.

IMPORTANT DATES

January 18th - 12 noon – Buffalo Sabres Alumni Game, Leisureplex, Kinsmen Arena. Tickets are available from Madison's Pub at the Leisureplex for only \$5 each.

January 31st - Jr. B Meteors Kids Night – This year GFEMHA is partnering with the Jr. B Meteors to put on a great night for our players. All GFEMHA players get free admission. Free snacks and door prizes for players, raffles for free stuff and a free registration for next season.

February 14th – What better way to spend Valentines Evening than with good friends & More Bad News and the Horns from Hell at the Leisureplex Banquet Hall? More info to follow...

February 26th – GFEMHA Pasta Night at the Italo-Canadian Club. Come out with your family & friends for some excellent pasta. Take out also available. We are also planning a Silent Auction for this night & we are currently looking for items for the Silent Auction. Please contact Tonya at GFEMHAFUNDRAISING@hotmail.com if you have any item(s) to contribute.

February 28th – Open Niagara Ice Dogs practice at Leisureplex – Time TBA

March 5th – Niagara Ice Dogs Jr. Meteors night – Ticket info TBA

Check the website for schedules for the Select / AE Winter Challenge and come out and support our Jr. Meteors teams!

HOME TOURNAMENT NEWS

So far, we have hosted three successful tournaments with our Select / AE Tournament on January 16-18th. Here are some of our Jr. Meteors results from our home tournaments so far:

Minor Tournament

Our Minor Peewees won the championship in a close game against Hespeler

Major Tournament

Our Novices won the championship in OT defeating Port Perry

Our Major Peewees lost an exciting game in a shootout to Buffalo

House League

Novice – The Fort Erie Flyers won a close game against the Fort Erie Green team.

Bantam – The Fort Erie Sharks beat the Burlington Flyers in an exciting Championship

Congratulations to all of our Fort Erie Teams and good luck to our teams who will be participating next weekend.

Check out our website for the schedule & come out and support our teams.



TRAVEL NEWS

In mid-October, our Minor Peewees travelled to Erie, PA where they won the Erie Lions Fall Face-Off tournament. The Minor Peewees also won our home tournament the first weekend in November.

Our Minor Atoms travelled to Pittsburgh at the end of November to participate in the Three Rivers Cup going in as the underdogs. After losing their first game, the team showed excellent team work and won their next two games to advance to the finals. In the Championship game, the team played a great game, defeating the Erie Lions, the same team who beat them in the round robin.

The same weekend, our Minor Bantams travelled to Ottawa to participate in the Annual Capital Mid-Season Showdown. The team went undefeated, winning an exciting championship game against the Clarington Toros in a shootout.

Our Major Peewee Team entered a team Christmas float in the annual Fort Erie Santa Claus Parade on December 13, 2008. With much help from the team members and their families, a fun and festive time was had by all... the team's float received second place for the best Community Float.

TRAVEL JERSEYS

Our new travel jerseys arrived in November & our players are looking sharp. If you would like to purchase your old travel jersey, they are currently available for sale at a cost of \$25 each. Contact Larry at operations@forteriehockey.com with your current team, old number, and if you would like the home, away or both jerseys.

SELECT NEWS

In December, our Peewee Select team travelled to Cleveland to participate in the Rock & Roll Cup, winning an exciting championship game against the Lakeland Eagles in OT. On December 17th, the Peewee Selects also had the experience of playing an outdoor game against Wheatfield on the same rink that had been built for the NHL Outdoor game held in Buffalo on January 1st, 2008.

The Midget Select team got off to a strong start. The team scored a 3 - 2 victory at home over Cambridge in their first game. The second game was a 1 - 0 victory over Oakville in Burlington. The third game of the season was an away tilt versus Dofasco. It was a penalty filled affair but Fort Erie prevailed with a 4 - 3 win. The fourth game was a close 3-2 loss at home versus St Catharines Kiwanis. The month of January will be very busy for the Midget Select's They will play five home games and two away games.

All of our Select teams will be in action at our home tournament on Jan 16th, 17th and 18th. Check our website http://www.forteriehockey.com/select_tourn_teams.php for schedules & results. Come out to some of the home games & support our Jr. Meteors Select & our Novice AE teams.



***Please note: All teams were contacted for submissions for the newsletter. If your team has some news which should have been included but didn't make it in on time, please send your submissions for our next newsletter to communication@forteriehockey.com



HOUSE LEAGUE NEWS

Our House League season is in full swing with some great games going on every week. Playoffs will be starting soon, which will make for some excellent hockey viewing. Come out & support our Jr. Meteors on their quest to the House League Championships in Brantford.

While GFEMHA can no longer pay for away tournament entry fees, if any house league teams would like to participate in an "away" tournament over March Break, please talk to your coach as these tournaments fill quickly. Tournament listings can be found at:

<http://www.alliancehockey.com/tournaments.asp>

<http://www.omha.net/tournaments/>



TEAM EURO 2009

During the Denmark team's visit, the GFEMHA Executive had an opportunity to meet with the Vojens' coaching staff to discuss the program and how it could be improved. It was agreed by both sides that an equalization of team age groups is required.

Therefore, in 2009, eligible GFEMHA players born in 1994, 1995 AND 1996 will be able to try out for this experience.

At this time, we are seeking RESUMES for anyone who is interested in being a part of the Team Euro 2009 coaching staff.

RESUMES MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE 8 PM ON JANUARY 31, 2009.

Resumes may be submitted by email to gfemh@forteriehockey.com, by fax to 905-871-3457 or through the mail slot of the GFEMHA Minor Hockey Office in the Kinsmen Rink at the Leisureplex.





DENMARK VISIT

Team Canada arrived on Boxing Day from Vojens, Denmark. Their first morning in Canada, the players were like kids in a candy store shopping for new equipment at Front Row Sports & Simmon's Sports. They toured Niagara Falls, went to a Buffalo Sabres game, went skiing and toured Toronto, including the Hockey Hall of Fame.

And, of course, they played some great hockey!

They played games against our Bantam Selects, Major Bantams, Minor Midgets, a fun game against last year's Team Euro and on January 1st, we hosted an international face-off when a visiting team from Finland came to town (photos below).

The Vojens 2008 team's players were Jesper Nielsen, Rasmus Kunz, Benjamin Sørensen, Casper Bossen, Mikkel Nissen, Palle Nørgaard, Casper Nielsen, Lukas Venø, Emil Schubert, Jonas Nielsen, Henrik Nielsen, Daniel Madsen, Marc Sørensen, Ronnie Brobak, Sune Knudsen, Morten Jakobsen, Sebastian Gadeberg, Morten Skov, Dennis Niemann & Morten Jepsen. Coaching staff were Allan Knudsen, Erling Nielsen, Steffen Nielsen, Klaus Sørensen and John Jepsen

While here the players billeted with several of our families who took great care of them.

Special thanks to our billet families, the Smith, Sexsmith, Flagg, Peters, Perdue, Simpson, Palmer, Sauer, Maves and Bolton families for taking such good care of the players & making them feel right at home.

And finally, a very special thanks to all those who planned and made all the arrangements to host a first-class visit to Canada from their arrival until the day they returned home.

Special mentions to:

- ❖ The Euro Team's coaching staff, Brad Perdue, Colin Pett & Wilf Robins, for spearheading all the arrangements. The GFEMHA Board for facilitating all the visiting teams needs. A special thanks to
- ❖ Reg Malott for organizing the Finland game
- ❖ The parents from last year's Euro team who arranged and provided much of the food that was available at the many social functions.
- ❖ Deb and Keith German for arranging for the cafeteria at Town Hall to be opened for the initial meet and greet.
- ❖ Town staff, who opened the Leisureplex on both Boxing Day and New Years Day.
- ❖ Team Euro coaches, of past teams, including Dave VanHelvert & Dale Sider for volunteering their time, assisting with fundraising and helping to look after the Denmark coaches during their visit.

