



August 2008

Welcome to the 2008-2009 hockey season from your Bismarck Hockey Boosters Board of Directors.

There are some significant changes for the 2008-2009 season. The Board of Directors would like to update you on these changes.

This year each participant will have to register online with USA Hockey. There is a \$40 fee associated with the registration covering USA registration and registration with ND Amateur Hockey Association. The \$30 USA registration fee is waived for players 7 and under but they still must register. The link to register can be found on our registration form. This in essence has raised our registration fees by the cost of this process.

The Board did not lower our registration fees to rebate the cost of the USA registration due to higher costs to run the program for the upcoming season. These costs include: higher mileage rates and pay for our coaches; salary for a referee's coordinator; and salaries for goalie coordinators. We are all feeling the pinch of higher gas prices but the need to justly compensate our coaches was imperative. The coordinators for the referees and goalies were paid by the Bismarck Parks and Recreation Department (BPRD) but will now have to be paid for by the Boosters.

The mite program will be operated by the Bismarck Hockey Boosters with ice time and coordinators salaries paid for by BPRD. In the past the program was operated by BPRD. Please thank BPRD for their continued support of the mite program. The mite program will also include an 8U girl's team for the first time. They will be incorporated into the white mite part of the program.

Starting this season **EVERY PLAYER IN THE BISMARCK HOCKEY PROGRAM WILL BE REQUIRED TO WEAR A NECK GUARD FOR ALL GAMES AND PRACTICES.**

The success of our program rides on the support from our sponsors and the volunteers of the organization. We have many sponsors that are listed on the website who for many years have continued to support us and we also get a few new ones each year. Please make sure you support these businesses and thank them for helping us put the kids on the ice.

This organization is only as strong as the volunteers that make it run. We have many needs and you as members have many talents the organization needs. If you have the desire we will put you to work by contacting one of the Board members or the website. I would also encourage you to attend our Board meetings on every second Monday of the month. You as parents and members can all make the club stronger by volunteering.

I would like to close by thanking you as parents for bringing your children to the rink entrusting the Bismarck Hockey Boosters to provide them a quality experience. In the end it is really all about the kids and their enjoyment of the best game in the world.

Thanks and see you at the rink,

Randy Renner, President

