

From the President to the Parents

As we are now heading into the season, we are having an exciting year for all of the players. We have many programs running and I would like to take this opportunity thank all of you for your involvement in the programs. I would also like to thank all of our volunteers (coaches, on and off ice helpers, board members, etc.), if it was not for your commitment these programs would not be possible.

As parents, coaches and volunteers, we need to closely pay attention to the following:

“Kids under 12”

Last year there were several arena upgrades, one of which was the new sliding doors being installed at the entrance. Please be advised that **you are responsible for your children** and no child should be left unattended to run free. There were several close calls that have occurred, where children have left the building and headed out towards the parking lot unattended and it is quite busy with drop off and pick-ups. Please be vigilant for all children. Also, please be advised that we cannot have children running up and down the stairs and behind the benches. We have had a few close calls last year, where children have fallen down the stairs and had 2 near misses where children were struck with flying pucks from behind the bench. **Safety is a concern for all!**

“Arena Signage and Rules”

You will notice an increase in signage at the arena respecting areas for players, coaches and staffs, and referees, we kindly ask that you adhere to these areas. We understand the need to be an active part in your player’s preparation for ***their*** game or practice but we ask that you assist your player when required and then vacate the area. **Please do not congregate in the dressing room hallway.** We have several teams and players coming in and out of the various dressing rooms and we need to have these areas clear.

“Dressing Room Policy”

At the arena is that a team is entitled to the dressing room 30 mins before their scheduled game time and need to be vacated 20 mins after the completion of the ice time. Please leave the room as clean as possible. If there is a reason to further have a team meeting or gathering pre or post your scheduled time, we kindly ask that the equipment be placed in the front lobby in the trophy case horseshoe out of the way of the pedestrian traffic. Please be courteous.

Also, **NO** players should be in the dressing rooms prior to the arrival of their respective coaching staffs. Please wait until the coach has arrived to proceed to the dressing room.

“Parents behind the bench”

I would kindly ask that parents refrain from going behind the bench during practices and/or games. Due to the increased risk of pucks coming over the boards, players falling and landing into the bench with their sticks, you may have the possibility of being struck. As a non – registered participant (coach, on ice helper, trainer, manager), you are not covered by insurance. Please refrain from coming to the bench and player areas. If required coaches and training staff will advise you to come over when it is safe to do so.

“Warm-ups in the hallway/dressing room”

Parents, please remind the players that there is to **be no use of pucks, warm up balls, tennis balls, or stick handling in the dressing rooms or hallways.** This is an arena policy.

“Proper safety equipment”

Parents, please remind your players that they must be fully equipped to participate in any OMHA sanctioned event, this includes games and practices. We have found increase at the older age groups where there is a lack of attention in wearing mouth guards and neck guards during games and practices. We have had a recent visit from OMHA officials who are attending to evaluate coaches and provide clinics who have noticed this non-compliance. Executives from the board will be observing the various games and practices and **if the players and coaching staffs are non-compliant with the OMHA rules and regulations a forfeiture of the next practice/ice time may occur. Safety is everyone’s responsibility!**

I would like to thank you in advance for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pete Morassutti', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Pete Morassutti

President TSMHA