

Parents & Players,

Welcome to the 2014 Tiger Hockey Season! I am excited to see such a great group of kids at practice and know that we'll have a great season. I am very impressed by all the positive attitude, work ethic, attention to detail, and willingness to be coached by all the players this season. These positive attributes will allow for great development of individual and team skills for all of our players/teams.

This season we are having a bigger overlap with Fall Sports and Hockey due to the success of many of the Fall Sport teams. With that said, teams won't be fully rounded out with all the Players until next week – good luck to those kids in their Fall Sports Play-offs.

We do have our first round of games this weekend and I wanted to offer a few reminders to all Players prior to the games.

1. Gardiner Youth Hockey (GYH) has a Mandatory neck guard rule. This protects players from laceration and certainly has prevented injuries over the years. If you don't have a neck guard, you'll have to get one in order to be on the ice at this weekend's games. Starting next week they will also be mandatory at Practice (you don't need to rush out and get one for tonight).
2. Mouthpieces are mandatory for games, penalties will be assessed if you don't have one. As a Coach I want players to use mouthpieces in practice also, both to prevent injury and to remain accustomed to it for communication and breathing.
3. GYH Trim Colors are black/orange/white and the Association will have Socks available for purchase soon. It is important that we look professional and unified as a team, so until Socks arrive please talk with others to share/beg/borrow in order to match for this weekend's games.
4. GYH will distribute Game Jersey's by size (not number). Jersey's will be assigned from Smallest Size player to biggest, that's the only way to properly allocate the Jersey's. You may end up with a Jersey that has a little extra room, but you won't end up with one that is skin-tight and restricts movement.
5. Maine Amateur Hockey Association (MEAHA) requires rosters submitted early this season, so your Jersey number has been assigned already and posted with MEAHA. You can't swap Jerseys unless there is a legitimate size issue, since it's already rostered. The Players should all recognize that we Play for the Team on the Front of the Jersey, not the Number on the back (we stress team concept).
6. We will have formal Team Meetings next week with the Coaching Staff to cover rules, expectations, Team Representative election, and answer questions for parents.

I am looking forward to a great season with Parents and Players alike. I believe that we will have a lot of fun while developing this group of athletes and helping them prepare for High School hockey (and beyond). I welcome everyone's support and positive attitude, they are paramount for both development and success.

Best Wishes,
Christian Hébert
GYH Coaching Director