



HEP- Hockey Education Program Update - April 2013

The mission of HEP:

HEP will ensure a positive athletic experience for youth hockey players by integrating a progressive approach to skill development with coaching excellence and accountability through Fair Play.

The HEP committee will be taking a new approach as we look to the 2013-14 season. We are changing the structure of the HEP Committee internally to better align with the HEP mission.

The HEP committee will be structured in the following manner:

- We will have a CORE team which will consist of 6-8 members. The objective of the CORE group will be to look at HEP from a strategic point of view and how we continue to move HEP forward in the most effective way possible. The members of this group will meet monthly via conference call and at a minimum meet twice a year in face to face meetings.
- The extended HEP Committee will still be a very important part of the HEP program. These people are the "extended" HEP committee that cannot allocate as much time to the HEP committee but will still be looked upon to bring ideas to the HEP team, help with the HEP education program and any other HEP related initiatives. They will be invited to all HEP committee conference calls and in-person meetings.

The HEP committee initiatives are the same as they were during the MN Hockey Winter meeting but we have prioritized a bit differently:

- Parent Education
- Player Safety Parent Education
- Working to "embed" HEP programs within all the MN Hockey associations (re-branding so to speak)
- Looking for new/improved and cost effective ways to communicate to the MN Hockey membership the HEP message
- Revamp the HEP page on the MN Hockey Website and empowering the MN Hockey community to access up to date and current information anytime, anywhere
- Continue working w/ Aynsley Smith and the Mayo Clinic on player safety

The HEP committee met in person back in February. In our discussion we talked about many topics but the one that got the most attention was that of Parent Education. It seems as if parent behavior has deteriorated over the past few years and the HEP committee feels it's in our best interest to have this item on the top of our list. We need to re-educate the parents and on what appropriate behavior is and what's acceptable, and also what's not.

The HEP committee also will be putting together a re-branding of HEP and education materials empowering all of our associations to provide HEP training to their membership. This will include things such as:

- Recommending all associations have a HEP coordinator.
- Find cost effective ways to deliver the training materials to the membership.
- Provide feedback channels to the associations

Player Safety is also an item that is high on the priority list. Over the past few years, the safety of players at all levels has improved, yet we are still seeing some behavior that needs to be addressed. This isn't only on ice player safety but it reaches out to parents and coaches as well. We need to properly educate the parents and coaches so all kids playing hockey in MN have a positive athletic experience.

One last item the HEP committee will be working on is partnering with Scott Gray and the SafeSport program. SafeSport and HEP are closely tied to one another around education and awareness. We will work with Scott to see what we can do to partner together in moving both programs forward.

The HEP committee members are passionate about the HEP program they have built and want to continually expand and improve the program for the betterment of MN Hockey!

Steve Snyder
HEP Committee Chair