



# GRAND TRAVERSE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

1600 Chartwell Dr. Suite G Traverse City, Michigan 49696

June 4, 2020

Dear GTHA Players/Families/Sponsors and Friends –

We certainly live in interesting times, don't we? I hope that this letter finds you and your families healthy and able to find meaningful ways to keep yourself busy during the quarantine.

The purpose of this letter is to give you an update as to where we stand on wrapping up last season and starting our new season for 20-21.

First – let's talk about wrapping up the 19-20 season. Unfortunately, we will not be able to hold the Cherry Cup or any other year end sessions that were planned to be on-ice. From an administrative perspective, the Board has several things to do to finish last year. These include year-end awards, board election, fee-setting meeting and other tasks to put the prior year in the rear-view mirror. The Board has been meeting via Zoom (not the best way) and will continue to do so until we are permitted to meet in person. We do not have a definitive schedule on how last year will be wrapped up, however I can assure you that we discuss this at each meeting and as soon as it is practical, a plan will be determined to get last year completed.

On to 20-21, as you all know, the State has issued several orders related to gatherings as well as a plan for re-engagement. The hockey community does not know the number of persons that will be permitted in each rink facility so programming for 20-21 is very difficult to plan for, if not impossible.

Within the last 60 days, MAHA established several committees working on how to get hockey started for the 20-21 season. I am serving on the programming committee and Todd Spaulding is serving on the Ice Rink facilities committee along with several others. These committees are charged with issuing recommendations by May 31, 2020 on how to get the 20-21 hockey season started. As of the writing of this letter, these recommendations have been submitted to MAHA and final action will come when more clarity from the State has been given. Members from around the State are on these committees along with representatives from MAHA and USA Hockey. These recommendations have been compiled and sent to MAHA as recommendations which the MAHA board will consider in their final deliberations. Since hockey is played in so many different States and each State has their own rules, it will be very interesting to see how this rolls out for 20-21 and how USA Hockey will accommodate all these differences. I wish I had definitive information for you but at this point, it is too early to say. I have serious doubts that 20-21 will look like 19-20.

Some of the information that I have gleaned from my meetings is that tournament play is likely not to exist, MAHA teams will be strongly encouraged not to play any teams from outside the State or Country (primarily Canada as they have travel restrictions not allowing their teams to leave Canada) and it will also be strongly recommended that MAHA teams not leave the State for competition. Considering these and several other factors, we want to get the pulse of the membership to help with determining programming for the Fall. At this point MAHA is still planning on having Districts and States early next year.

The Association is looking to gather information about the upcoming season and to get a pulse on what the membership is thinking. Please see the link to this survey below asking for your input that we can use in program development. Some things to consider:

- It is unclear how many people will be allowed inside the rinks and programming will have to be modified to reflect these capacity limits.
- Since many of our teams play all over the State **and** if we have similar teams (in terms of numbers, levels, etc.) as the 19-20 season, how will our parents feel about playing away from northwest lower Michigan.
- Tryouts for any MAHA/USA Hockey team will not be permitted until approved by USA Hockey.
- Overnight and hotel travel will likely look very different for the upcoming season.
- Rink protocol may have the use of masks, hand sanitizer, social distancing, etc. in place for the upcoming season among other precautions.
- Locker rooms may not be in use for the upcoming season
- Rinks will need to be able to place enough time in between each use to allow for proper cleaning.

These factors, among others, will affect every team in GTHA. Clearly – we are operating in a new environment.

Here is the link to the survey and please note that this survey will close on **June 19,2020** –

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GTHA2020-21>

Please participate in this survey as it will provide critical information needed so the Board can deliver the best product to meet our memberships needs. Thank you in advance!

There will be a pre-registration set up to go live in early June to allow for members to fund their hockey account. This pre-registration will be used so that members have a way to ease the burden of the costs of hockey by spreading out the bill over more months to yield a smaller amount per month. When paying online your funds will be placed into an account in your name (as opposed to a team name) and will not be applied to a balance until programming and the related fees are determined. These funds will be 100% refundable in the event that a member chooses not to continue with the season. Be on the lookout for the announcement for when this pre-registration is opened.

Lastly, I would encourage everyone to investigate using SCRIP to help defray the costs of hockey. This is a way to provide funds that can be used to pay your hockey bill simply by doing what we all do now anyway, such as buy gas, groceries, meals and entertainment, etc.. It's an easy way to get some needed dough into your hockey account with little effort by the member. Please see [www.tchockey.com](http://www.tchockey.com) under the Home tab for further information.

Thank you for your patience as we move down the road heading toward 20-21. Please return the survey on or before June 19, 2020 as we need as much input as possible in determining programming to make it fit into the ever-changing regulatory environment that we are facing and more importantly to meet our memberships needs as best as we can!

Stay healthy,  
Steve Peacock,  
Executive President