

January 2017

Happy New Year Folks! We just wanted to give you a Board update and brief overview as we round the corner on this season with a lot of hockey still to be played but with thoughts towards next season and beyond. At our most recent Board meeting we voted on and approved the following structural changes and enhancements we believe will bring continued health to the program and carry it into the future. Please understand that these changes aren't being done for change sake but rather after much consideration, feedback, research, and discussion over the past several months.

Based on your responses to our previous surveys and in comparison to other local and regional programs we are taking the step of ADDING a Tier II or "AA" Bantam team as well as a Tier II or "AA" Peewee team for next season. In addition, we will be adapting a Major/Minor format with our other teams moving forward. This move should in fact help to balance the rosters while giving those who are willing and able the opportunity to play at a higher level right here at Western rather than looking beyond the organization.

Further initiatives being implemented or continuing will include a family discount, a continued referral discount, an option for a half or limited mite season (2x a week on ice as opposed to 4x), the addition of weekly power skating only at all levels, the continuation of hiring more non-parent coaches, adding paid assistants to the benches, Western Run clinics (Spring and Summer), and a larger exposure in the rink and community. Annual Board Elections will also take place at the yearend banquet!

We also need to extend a large thanks to our Mite B Coach and CHC Representative Matt Dutton who continues to give Western a larger voice on the State stage and has strengthened our relationship with the Danbury Ice Arena as evidenced by the fact that the Squirt Tier II and Squirt Tier III, as well as a Pee Wee Tier IV tournament will be played here in Danbury at the conclusion of this Season.

Lastly, We continue to work on website enhancements and content. You will see a number of changes forthcoming shortly as we move forward. Many of our paid coaches will be retained for next season but may be at different levels, we are in the process of interviewing additional candidates now and our coaches will be named and distributed to you before the end of this month. We have recognized many of the challenges we have here at Western and are addressing them as best we can so that all of our children and families can maximize the benefit of participating at Western. It doesn't happen overnight but we hope you see the effort and value as well. We also know there is still work to be done!

Warmest Regards,

Brendan and Isabel - Co Presidents