As we approach the 4th week of the YYHL season a reminder of YYHL Guidelines and Principles may be in order particularly as we have so many new faces in positions of responsibility within YYHL Clubs.

**PRINCIPLES**

**The purpose and aim of the League** is to encourage and develop an interest in, and a desire to play hockey for pleasure, interest and competition; giving players both boys and girls, who are U16, U14, U12 and U10 on the 1st September, the opportunity to reach as high a standard of achievement as possible within the sport.

**The YYHL** should be a natural progression from Club coaching sessions directed at young players and should give a practical application of the skills and techniques learnt on the training ground in a competitive situation against players of their own age.

**The YYHL** is not in competition with other Youth Hockey Associations or Competitions but rather another outlet for schoolboys and schoolgirls to play at a competitive level within a Club structure.

**The YYHL** is a vehicle to bring on young players and encourage them to join senior Clubs, and continue to play hockey on leaving school.

**The YYHL** should continue to look at ways of encouraging and developing a strong basis for Hockey in Yorkshire and consider any opportunity to aid this development.

**GUIDELINES**

**Entry Fees / Participation Fees** should be paid by the end of October.

£120 for each U16/14 Team: £60 for each U12/10 Team less any rebates from the previous season.

**Results:** of YYHL games should be recorded on the YHA Website by the Wednesday following the date of Competition.

**Cancelled Sessions:** YYHL sessions are usually cancelled due to snow/frost - dangerous playing conditions.

U12/10 League at Leeds Univ & Leeds Adel HC the decision to Cancel is communicated centrally to all known Coaches both Main and Age Group via email (one reason we ask for email addresses contactable at weekends).

At U16/14 the decision rests with the Pitch Organiser, or another Club Coach, to contact the venue to get a pitch report and make the decision to cancel based on that information.

All teams at that venue should be made aware of the decision.

**Pitch Organisers:** Highlighted Clubs at U16/14 and 1st Named Teams at U10/12 are designated Pitch Organisers who should contact the other teams in their Division by Wednesday before the day of competition to confirm that: all teams are attending, whether players need to be borrowed and umpire provision. At U16/14 you can confirm the Order of Play in the same communication.

**Umpires:** All teams attending YYHL sessions should do their utmost to provide a competent Umpire and not expect other Clubs/Coaches/Volunteers to officiate their game for them.

Clubs can use whatever incentive they chose to bring an Umpire, that can be the Coach, Parent or Older Young Player. Failure to provide an Umpire on a regular basis will lead to lack of cooperation amongst Clubs …something we do not wish to see or encourage.

**Pitch Side Support:** Players and Umpires respond to positive comments from the touch line and the YYHL will not support negative, abusive or aggressive comments from the touch line by anyone. Action will be taken if necessary.

**Litter:** We expect pitches to be left, after the YYHL has finished, in the condition we would expect to find it on arrival. Perhaps adding a black bin bag to Coaches equipment list will help make sure that pitches are left clean & tidy.

A recent report of a Girls team who had camped out at a ground within 4 yards of a Litter Bin and left the pitch with no litter in the bin but the area where they were based covered with wrappers and bottles must not happen in future.

**Dogs:** Dogs should not be brought to any pitch used by the YYHL … for the benefit of those who can’t follow rules … at the very least dogs should not be exercised at any of the pitches we use.

**Relationship with Pitches & Pitch Supervisors:** All the pitches we use offer us very attractive hire rates, for Players, Coaches, Spectators to show disrespect to the Facility Provider does not promote the YYHL in a positive manner or give an incentive to the provider to continue to make us welcome at their site.

**Face Masks:** Having been included in a number of Pitch Organiser emails it has been great to hear that Clubs at U16/14 are working hard to follow the YYHL ruling that all defenders at Penalty Corners should be provided with face masks via whatever means. It shows that we do take player safety seriously and put young players at the top of our priorities.

**Website Match Report/Social Networking:** A Match Report on a Club Website was brought to my attention that was very derogatory of one of the opposing teams and not in any way reflective of the YYHL ethos. Can I ask Match Day Reporters and those who use Social Networking to make sure their comments are not abusive or derogatory to any individual, team, official or club.

The YHA has Guidelines for this affecting senior teams so expect similar attitudes to prevail at Youth level.

Many thanks to all for reading this far. I Feel sure I have forgotten something important and it will come back to me as soon as I send this communication.

Cheers

Phil Thomas