



King Township Minor Hockey

- The King Rebellion Hockey Club -

September 5, 2017

Dear King Township Minor Hockey Families;

Summer is over and hockey season is upon us. On behalf of our entire Board of Directors, we extend a sincere welcome to the inaugural season of King Township Minor Hockey (KTMHA). Our new organization is powered by the partnership between the NobleKing and Schomberg Minor Hockey Associations, successfully uniting the villages and hamlets of our Municipality with our mutual love of Canada's favourite game.

We are extremely excited for our first season of Rebellion Hockey. A great deal of work has already gone into the launch of our new Rep Hockey organization. Countless hours from many hard working volunteers, parents, sponsors and coaches – and we want to thank each of them for their passion and dedication. There have been and will continue to be some minor bumps along the way, as we iron out new policies, uniforms, budgets and the complicated logistics of a new organization this large.

We appreciate everyone's patience and cooperation, as we continue to launch an amazing new OMHA affiliated Hockey Club.

Our new website is up and running. Please check it regularly for information, schedules and announcements. Please ensure that you subscribe to our email distribution list for regular "e-blasts" with important Rebellion news updates and information. Also on the website, you will find important links to things like our online store for amazing hockey gear and Rebellion swag, links to important Association policies, as well as contacts to KTMHA Board members and our hard-working administrative staff. Also, don't forget to "like" us on Facebook at King Township Minor Hockey, and tag your team photos @kingrebellionhockey

Please mark your calendars for September 23, which will mark our official Hometown Season Opener, with many of our Rep teams hosting opening games back to back at both the Trisan Centre and Nobleton Arena. This will include some fun events, ceremonial puck drops and food and treats for the family. Let's show King Township that the Rebellion has spirit!

Planning for our Hometown Tournaments is well underway. Please diarize these dates in your calendar. We will be counting on parent volunteers from every team to step up during these Tournaments to help administer events and games at all 3 King Township arenas. These Tournaments will be a critical component of our Association fundraising, and we will be counting on all Rebellion families to lend a hand in one way or another.

As we continue with the launch of our new Association, we would ask everyone to keep a few fundamental principles in mind, as key priorities for our first year:



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First – we need to make good sportsmanship and respect a cornerstone of our new Association. As minor hockey seems to get more and more competitive each year, we’ve all been to games where unacceptable player, coach or parent behaviour ruins the experience for everyone. We do not want our new Association to have that kind of negative reputation. So we are calling on all parents, players, coaches and officials to make good sportsmanship the calling card of the King Rebellion. We will expect coaches to manage their players accordingly – and not fall into the easy pattern of blaming officials for bad calls, or letting selfish play undermine team spirit. Good sportsmanship starts on the bench with a respectful attitude and a disciplined environment being set by the coaches and parents on the team. Let’s work together to ensure that our entire league comes to know King Rebellion as not only a competitive club, but a hockey club that plays with both class and respect.

Second - if our new Association is to be successful in the long term, we need to maintain a balanced approach between competitive hockey and having fun.

Sure, everyone wants to win games and have competitive “A” level Rep teams, but let’s not become so serious about minor hockey and skill development that we suck the fun out of the game for our players. At the end of the day, minor hockey is about fun, and kids playing with their friends. Let’s keep that important focus in mind as the King Rebellion begins to take shape, so that as parents and coaches, we let the kids be kids.

Third - even though King Township Minor Hockey runs the combined King Rep teams, we can never forget about the Local League players in NobleKing and Schomberg Minor Hockey. They are the grassroots of our program, and the future Rep players at the competitive hockey level. We must continue to balance the needs of our Rep and Local League Programs, in terms of ice time needs, fundraising, and skill development.

The KTMHA Rep Program and individual Rep Teams have an important leadership role to play in making those Local League players feel like they are part of the same team, with the Rep Teams and Rep Coaches helping to support player development, AP opportunities, and fundraising and community social events. The Rep and Local League programs will only “win” if we all “win” together.

Next, we need to focus on community building. It is never easy to combine two distinct organizations, and that process will take some time. All Rep families have had teams from previous years be dismantled to a certain degree. New coaches. New families. New rules and procedures. All that change can be difficult to digest. Likely our greatest challenge is bridging the gaps between the various communities of King Township, from Associations that have traditionally been rivals. Both sides have run their programs in different ways, and we are working to find our footing in taking some of the best parts of SMHA and NKMH to build something new. So we encourage all King families, players and coaches to reach out to the new members of your team and get to know them. Plan some social events. Buy each other a coffee. Extend a hand. Let’s start building some new relationships and friendships that will help our new King Rebellion minor hockey family move forward in a unified way. Everyone has a constructive role to play here. Let’s keep it positive and put old rivalries behind us.



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On a final note, what's with the name Rebellion you ask? It's a proud part of King Township's heritage and was the most frequently submitted name raised by our Members. In 1837, the settlers of King Township, led by Rebel Leader William Lyon Mackenzie, massed troops and led a citizen rebellion against a corrupt and oppressive colonial government – fighting for fairness and democracy. The Upper Canada Rebellion started here in the farm houses and fields of our Township, and ultimately triggered a chain of events that led to the creation of Canada itself.

So the King Rebellion is a proud part of our local history, a rebellion of positive change and the dream of a better future.

That unique history and name sets us apart from other hockey clubs. As our Rep Teams hit the ice for the first time this season, let's not forget the community pride in our local heritage.

We challenge all our Players and Teams to let the Rebellion Begin!

On behalf of the Board of King Township Minor Hockey and all our hard working volunteers, we want to wish all our Teams great success during our inaugural season. Work hard, play smart, be safe, and most importantly, don't forget to have fun.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the rink. Until then, keep your head up and stick on the ice!

Yours truly,

Kelly

Kelly Harbridge
Transitional President – King Minor Hockey
President, Schomberg Minor Hockey

Mike

Mike Baldesarra
First V.P. – King Minor Hockey
President, NobleKing Minor Hockey