



GTHL LAUNCHES LEAGUE-WIDE SURVEY ON GATE FEES
Parents and Club Officials to Provide Input on Potentially Eliminating Gate Admission

Toronto (April 11, 2014) ó Today, the Greater Toronto Hockey League (GTHL) Board of Directors launched a league-wide survey seeking feedback on eliminating gate fees and replacing the fees with a Player Participant Fee.

This survey continues the League's commitment to consultation with its stakeholders on important issues facing the game.

The survey can be accessed from the GTHL web site at GTHLCanada.com or click <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/gateadmissionsurvey>. The survey will be available until April 30.

The GTHL is committed to providing the best hockey experience, at the best value, to all of our players and their families. In order to do this, the League looks for ways to improve efficiencies within the organization.

The issue of gate entry fees and how the League can better organize its revenue system is one that the Board of Directors has discussed over multiple seasons.

The GTHL Board advises that:

- Annually, the GTHL collects \$33.00 per participant, of which \$26.00 is forwarded on to the Ontario Hockey Federation and Hockey Canada for Insurance and Assessment Fees. The GTHL retains \$8.00.
- Each year, each team pays the GTHL a \$2000.00 entry fee. Half of this is used for administration of the league and the other half for ice expenses. That equates to approximately \$125/player per year.
- Due to rising costs for ice rental, unless a different funding model is adopted, gate fees will rise to \$7.00 in the 2014-15 season.
- We know that the cost of playing hockey is a concern for many families.

The largest single financial challenge for the GTHL is the cost of ice. This season alone, the League's game ice expense will exceed \$4,400,000.00. This is an expense over which the League has no control.

The GTHL collects gate fees to cover the cost of game ice. In the 2013/14 season the average player contributed over \$552.00 in gate fees. Based on the increase in 2014/15 to a \$7.00 gate, the average player would contribute over \$644.00 in gate fees.

Recently the GTHL's independent Auditor advised the Board that it needed to reconsider the way in which the League funded ice costs. The GTHL Board formed a working group to provide a recommendation on how to better collect fees and to review how the League could save parents money.

The Working Group has proposed the following, which will save parents, in the aggregate, approximately \$450,000.00/year:

- Current gate fee would be eliminated. All players, parents and spectators would be admitted to GTHL games free of charge.

- Each player would pay a Participant fee based on the following:
 - Player \$575.00/year
 - Player with a parent who is a team official \$375.00/year
 - Each Player who has a sibling registered in the League and who has paid a Player Participant Fee - \$400/year
- The Collection method would be through an on-line payments portal as either a one-time payment or five separate installments on August 1, September 1, October 1, November 1 and December 1.

The Greater Toronto Hockey League is the largest amateur hockey league in the world and is celebrated its 100th Anniversary during the 2011-12 season. There are over 40,000 participants registered in the GTHL annually. The Greater Toronto Hockey League is a proud member of the Ontario Hockey Federation, Hockey Development Centre of Ontario and Hockey Canada.

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