



Dear Hershey Jr. Bears Families,

I hope you and your family are all healthy and safe during these unprecedented times due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. All of you should have received an email last weekend from AAHA (Atlantic Amateur Hockey Association) also known to us as the Atlantic District in which we are a member of, explaining the procedure that we need to abide by for the upcoming 20-21 season involving evaluations and team placement. Below is information and the process that we are taking to kick off the process.

We wish all our Hershey Jr. Bears family members nothing but the best and we cannot wait to see you !

To be considered for placement for the 20-21 travel season, please review the timeline and complete the following:

***If you have not done so, please register for evaluations now on [www.hersheyjrbears.org](http://www.hersheyjrbears.org)***

All players **must be registered** with the program no later than **June 10th**. The registration fee is **\$50**.

On **June 11**, electronic DVHL player agreements will be provided to all registered players for their age-appropriate level. Specific team placement will not be decided at this time. The league is requiring submission of our team counts by **June 20**. Accordingly, we need to complete the registration process by June 10 in order to meet the submission deadline.

When we are permitted to start operations, we will provide players the opportunity to get back on the ice for a period of time thru clinics and then hold evaluations for team placements. Specific dates and times will be based on the federal, state and Atlantic District guidelines.

We have initiated planning with Twin Ponds, Hersheypark Arena and Giant Center to outline plans and possible procedures to ensure we are prepared as soon as we receive confirmation allowing us to get your child back on the ice.

### **Financial Hardship Refund (notify club by July 31, 2020)**

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Hershey Jr. Bears will follow Atlantic District guidelines and offer families a chance to withdraw their son/daughter from the club for the 20-21 season if they experience a change in their financial situation (such as loss of a job) after signing the player agreement. This **MUST** be accomplished prior to July 31, 2020. ***Affected families must notify the Hershey Jr. Bears via e-mail no later than July 31, 2020 that they are withdrawing their son/daughter from travel hockey for the 20-21 season, and the reason for the financial hardship.*** The program will issue a refund for any monies paid to date and forgive all future payments due for the season in the case of a financial hardship. Consistent with AAHA guidelines, the player will not be released to sign with a different travel program for 20-21.

## **Shortened/Interrupted or Cancelled Season**

If the season is affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, families will receive a refund, based on the portion of the season missed in home games and practices. Refund amounts will be issued within 45 days when the season is determined to be final. If it is declared that the season never takes place, the organization will retain \$50 of fees paid to cover costs the program has incurred. (i.e.: credit cards fees). The program will follow federal, state and Atlantic District guidelines with regard to the continuation and interruption of program-related activities.

## **Hershey Jr. Bears House Program**

This season's brochure and registration process will be available around July 1<sup>st</sup> and will follow the guidelines above in case of any changes that need to be made due to the pandemic.

## **J. Bruce McKinney Scholarship Fund**

Through the kindness of J. Bruce McKinney and other donors, the Hershey Jr. Bears Organization is able to offer limited financial assistance to families who are experiencing financial difficulty. Scholarships are awarded solely on the basis of financial need. The identity and the financial information of all applicants will be strictly confidential. Application forms may be requested by contacting Lori Rich at [lrich@hersheyjrbears.org](mailto:lrich@hersheyjrbears.org). Please note: ALL Scholarship Fund applications must be received by August 31, 2020. No applications will be accepted after August 31st.

The Hershey Jr. Bears Board of Directors is working diligently to prepare for any and all scenarios for the 20-21 season. The health and safety of all our participants is our priority.

Additional information will be provided as soon as received by the Board.

Thank you for your patience and for being a member of our Hershey Jr. Bears family.

Stay safe.

Linda Umberger  
President, Hershey J. Bears



**BE A BEAR !**