

Good Afternoon Parents,

I hope this finds you well and everyone is looking forward to a night off from hockey. I'm writing you all to update you as we near the mid-season point in the year, and I felt it necessary to get a few things communicated so that we can build momentum heading into the back-half of this season. (Apologies in advance for the lengthy email)

I can imagine that after last night's game there were plenty of discussions had with our kids as to why our team continues to demonstrate a "Jekyll and Hyde" effort from game to game, or in last night's case, during the same game. Our coaching staff has been looking for this answer and trying to identify a solution moving forward to get our players playing at a high level consistently. It's no secret that our team is capable of beating just about any team out there in the state, however, the "inconsistencies" have shown mostly during our District Games, resulting in us digging quite a deep hole to get back in the D3 race (for playoff positioning).

We're committed to getting the boys playing to the high level that we know they can and doing so consistently, so we will continue to work tirelessly to make that a reality.

In doing so, we're asking for your help in ensuring the boys are getting themselves ready (on time for games/practices, being fed well-before events when possible, bringing proper attire and materials to Drylands/Film..etc). The key phrase there being "the Boys getting themselves ready", as we know they're all at an age where they need to be accountable for themselves and their teammates.

Before outlining a couple things to be aware of in the coming weeks, I want to let you all know what our message has been for this year and will continue to be with our group of kids.

We're building a new culture within the Hopkins Hockey program. One that is built on 3 main pillars; having [Pride](#) in the way we approach the game, our opponents, and our teammates, putting in the [Work](#) necessary to once again be able to compete with anyone in the state, and finally, setting a new standard for how other organizations view [Hopkins Hockey](#) and getting back to being a strong program, no matter the level.

We believe that this is the group that can start to change the perspective that has been projected onto the program over the last few years (not being an overall competitive program).

That being said, there's a lot of work ahead of us and we're going to make it over the hump within our own district, and hopefully continue to pull in a few more of those (#1) trophies along the way.

A few reminders for everyone to note so that we can all be on the same page moving into the back-half of the season:

Referees & Conduct

We understand we've not had the best officiated games, and believe me, there have been plenty of times we've also caught a break on being overly aggressive. I've told our boys, we may never get breaks on calls, but that is something we need to expect and we need to remain calm and continue to prove our strength by putting goals up on the board, and not losing our heads with the referees. I'm going to be speaking with the head of Beltline (D3) officials this weekend so that we can grasp exactly what the officials are looking for on calls and then communicate that to our kids.

I know it's hard, but the more we worry about the officiating (both players and parents), we'll likely continue to be scrutinized and wrongfully punished further. I did receive a warning for our fans last night, and I'm not worried about this becoming an issue. Believe me, if anyone is to get kicked out of a game for the officiating, it will be me (Mikey) and not our players, or parents.

Health & Preventing Sickness

It's that time of the year where sickness continues to make it's way in waves through our locker room. A few reminders to have our players be washing their hands constantly, bring their own water bottles (this is critical) and to be dressing properly for the weather so that we can prevent any illness when possible.

Dryland & Film Sessions

We'll be continuing to drive more Dryland and Film sessions as we're definitely seeing immediate benefits from both with our group. I apologize if there are plans or scheduled events that your families have prior to or after practices, and if conflicts arise, please just let me know and we'll understand. Please continue to check the calendar in the coming weeks for added events for Dryland and Film Sessions. Thanks to the parents that have been helping me out thus far in the year with taking film during our games, it's truly a great asset for our coaching staff and our kids enjoy it as well.

Team Activities

Thank you to the Haub family for hosting a great party last weekend. We are all for getting our group to continue to strengthen the friendships that have been created so far this year, and we're looking to plan another Team Activity for each month remaining this season. I'll task the kids with coming up with a "Team Initiated" activity, but please feel free to let us know if anyone out there has any additional ideas.

Last but not least, a huge thank you to you parents for your time and patience with our group and with us coaches. It truly takes a village to have a successful season and us coaches are continually surprised by all the help that many of you have provided. While your kids may not

directly communicate to you all, they're lucky to have the support that everyone has shown this year, and we're looking forward to finding our (consistent) stride as we head towards the second half of this season, and beyond.

FYI, Regions are in Cottage Grove (March 1-3) and State is in Moorhead (March 15-17), just in case anyone was curious.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly with any questions and I'll do my best to get back to you in a timely manner.

Thank you all and GO ROYALS!

Have a great evening!