

27 January 2009.

To - The Hockey Community

From - Cairns Hockey Umpires and Officials Association.

Letter of Introduction.

To follow is an outline which we are aiming to achieve for 2010.

Introduction.

During the 2009-10 off season, a group of individuals (Jo Kempster, Mark Bombarderi, Mel Craig and myself) met with a common interest of working together to form an association to assist with the development of umpiring and tech officials for Cairns Hockey. Recently, we have made application to form as an association and affiliate with the Cairns Hockey Association. This request has been accepted by CHA

Our reasoning for forming an association as opposed to being a sub-committee in accordance with CHA by-laws was based on an opinion of the association executive that forming an association provided the opportunity to best achieve the objectives and goals of the association. We intend to attempt to make a difference and to do so it was felt that forming an independent association based on membership from through-out the hockey community provided the opportunity for the new group to deliver its objectives

Our framework (Refer attached) managed by our board and management committee, aims to provide support to umpires and tech officials at three levels.

1. Junior Umpires
2. Senior Umpires
3. Tech Officials.

Our goals as an association are as follows –

- Have regular contact with CHA management and board to improve support for umpires.
 - Form umpiring Assoc. that meets on a regular (monthly) basis.
 - Have a formal structure that consists of a board of president, secretary, treasurer, committee member from each club.
 - Prepare report and present to CHA on regular basis to inform and promote goals and results of new group to the board and association
- Develop mentor system to coach and assess senior/junior umpires and tech officials.
 - Develop panel of umpires at both junior and senior level.

- Provide weekly coaching and assessment of umpires. (theory and practice)
 - Encourage umpires to assess and discuss rule interpretations with other umpires on a regular basis.
 - Encourage and support promising umpires to travel to state and national titles.
- Provide program to teach junior players the rules of hockey. (in theory and practice)
 - Provide program to coach junior players, parents, managers and coaches the rules of hockey. In particular at early age groups
 - Provide opportunity for coaches to get feedback and interpretations of rules from game situations.
 - Encourage and support umpires and tech. officials to reach their goals, however high they may be.
 - Encourage parent's to be involved with being an umpire, tech official or mentor to junior umpires
- Provide income stream to provide funds to support umpires, tech officials, coaches and mentor's of Cns Hockey
 - Approach CHA and QHA for funding / grant support.
 - Fundraise and obtain sponsor's to raise funds.
- Develop formal communication channels between coaches and umpires aimed at –
 - Improving umpiring standards.
 - Improving report between players, coaches and umpires.
 - Discuss weekly umpiring and provide opportunity for comment and feedback to coaches and umpires.
- Encourage umpires and tech officials to gain formal recognition for their efforts
 - Establish local badge system for Cairns umpires.
 - Support umpires and officials to reach state and national level

To achieve our goals we are seeking the support and assistance of affiliated club's and CHA.

Initial support we are seeking from club presidents and the management and board of CHA in the following areas.

Junior Umpires

- On Sat 27/2/10 and Sat 6/3/10 the association will be conducting rules clinics for all junior players. Interested parents, coaches and manager's are also welcome to attend. Invitations containing detail will be forwarded to clubs by email shortly and will be issued in pamphlet form at the junior presentation day on the 20/2/10.

These rules clinics are planned to be fun and interactive with both theory and some practical time of the turf.

9.00 am – 10.20am U10's / U11's – Boys and Girls

10.30am – 12 noon U13 / U16 – Boys and Girls.

Goals from these clinic's are –

1. To introduce ourselves and what we trying to achieve.
2. Encourage a minimum of two players' from each junior team to be involved with our pool of umpires for 2010.
3. Encourage parents and manager's to also be involved.
4. Teach and explain some of the basic rules of hockey to all players and coaches.
5. Answer questions and take any suggestions that may assist with the upcoming season
6. Assign and allocate umpires for the start of the 2010 season.

Senior Umpires.

- Mel Craig will be coordinating the senior umpiring program. Mel will be away until just before the start of the season umpiring at a National Level in Kuala Lumpur.

It would be appreciated if club presidents could provide a list of 6 umpires or more for the senior pool as soon as possible after the club sign-on's

We are also looking for some ex-player's/umpires who are interested in our mentoring program. This will involve watching and assessing our umpires and providing feedback, support and evaluation at the end of the game.

Senior umpires interested in mentoring our up and coming junior's on Saturday mornings are also most welcome.

Tech Officials.

Our aim is to support and encourage anyone interested in being involved as a Tech official or perhaps as a mentor to junior's wanted to learn this aspect of the game. Parent's, past and present players and umpires most welcome.

We are also looking for a coordinator with experience as a Tech Official to be involved with organizing a program for our association and also be involved with the management group of our association.

Fund-raising / Finances.

Our aim is to make the association self sufficient with regard to funding, we are looking at the availability of Govt / community grants, fundraising in the Cns Hockey calander and sponsorship.

We realise this is competitive with club funding but any support is greatly appreciated.

We look forward to explaining what we are aiming to achieve at the workshop organised for Saturday morning at CHA. We hope to provide a positive improvement to umpiring and Tech official standards for the upcoming season.

Regards,
Cairns Hockey Umpires and Officials Association.