Dear Coaches,

On behalf of *Gas City Ball Hockey League*, we would like to thank you for your time and the effort you are contributing toward the 2018 season.

**Important: Please Read**

Firstly, keep in mind that all of the rules for the upcoming player draft will be explained at the draft. For those that have previously coached and participated in our league, there will be some changes for the 2018 GCBHL player draft.

***It is important that you be familiar with the following rule changes.***

1. Each head coach is allowed to protect **one** assistant coach. It is expected that any head coach or protected assistant coach is dedicated to the season and will be at a majority of the team's games or practices. Failure to do so may result in sanctions against said team. (Common sense dictates). As we all know, more coaches are a must for any team. You will not be able to protect other assistant coaches or their children. You canhowever, draft the player whose parent is involved in coaching to supplement your staff. **For example** head coach A always works with assistant coaches B and C. head coach A decides that he will coach with assistant coach B. It will be up to head coach A to plan accordingly to ensure that he drafts/picks up the player and therefore assistant coach C. *(This will not work if the players of coaches A, B, and C are all considered elite players in that division. The coach will have to make a choice that he/she chooses to work with)*
2. All players have been clustered into groups. The players in the first group are widely considered the strongest players in that division. These players have been identified by past performance, stats and past ratings. There are approximately ten players per group at the top of each division. A new head coach to Gas City Ball Hockey League will have the youth's stats from last year, know whether they are a first or second year player to the division, know whether they have played on the Provincial team in the past, and the player’s position. This information will be available to help **"level the playing field"** and encourage new coaches to take part within our association.
3. Why can't a head coach protect two assistant coaches? The reason is simple. **Fairness and balance** is something we will be striving for. Consider the top ten players in any given division. If the head coach’s child falls within that division and he/she tries to protect two other players who are widely considered the strongest in the division it will affect division balance, and fair play. (I realize there will always be accusations of stacked teams, but this step should level the playing field dramatically).
4. **Draft Procedure:** Generally speaking the top players are in the top group, and so on and so on. A head coach is allowed to pick any player from **any** group (exception is goalies, which will be done separately) he or she chooses. This is a means to guarantee
5. You get the youth you are after. If you choose to wait on someone, that player may be drafted from you. It is all a calculated risk. All of our children are placed in different groups. If your child is in group 2, you must draft him with your second pick. If your child is in the 8th group, you will need to take him in balance to the round. If you really want an assistant coach, and his/her child, on your team to help you, but you can't protect the player you may consider selecting him earlier than the group he is in. For example, the assistant coach’s child is in the 8th group, maybe you choose him in the 6th or 7th round to ensure you pick up the player and the assistant coach you desire.
6. If you are a head coach or assistant coach and have no affiliation with any youth playing in the division but you are looking at coaching, you would not be considered a protected coach and you can build your staff around that.
7. Players can, and will, put in their requests to play with friends. This does not mean they will get what they want. We can’t accommodate everyone with all their requests, but we will do our best. Please be aware of these requests on the Draft forms when assembling your players.
8. **Player protection:** You can protect your child, step child, foster child, brother or sister. Please do not try to protect your cousin, nephew, neighbor, etc... All decisions based on protections must be forwarded to the Director of Operations prior to the draft date. All decisions are subject to the discretion of the Director of Operations or his/her delegate. Should you be only protecting your son or daughter, nothing needs to be forwarded in advance. If there are questions or concerns, please address them to the Director of Operations in advance of the draft.
9. It has been my experience that nearly every team I have been involved in coaching will have parents willing to help. It is **STRONGLY** recommended that once you get your team, you seek further “administrative” assistance from parents if you need or want it. Every team should appoint a team manager to help with team admin such as ensuring game sheets are filled in correctly, setting up team pictures and assisting with team communication or other duties the coaching staff may require.
10. *Final point;* usually things run smoothly with our League. It is important to know that as coaches, your **actions** influence the youth on your team. This is a **recreational league**, and any youth can join. All Coaches will be *held accountable* to ensure that all their players get an **EQUITABLE** opportunity to play. *Equitable is not the same as equal*, but if you have a player that plays less than two minutes in a twenty minute period, you should re-examine whether you should be coaching. It is up to you to mentor all players, regardless of abilities. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding protections, the draft process or coaching, please drop me an email, and I should be able to clarify the issue.

Thank you

# Jason Tuchscherer

Director of High Performance

Gas City Ball Hockey League

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