Dear Parents/Guardians,

There has been some coverage in the media over the past few days as it relates to changes in Tyke hockey for the upcoming season. Recent decisions by both Hockey Canada and the Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) will have an impact on how our organization handles hockey for our youngest age groups beginning this season.

Hockey Canada has implemented a strict age policy related to Tyke team rosters. There is a renewed focus on development and according to Hockey Canada’s research, half-ice games and organized practices for 5 and 6 year-old players provide this development at a more successful pace. As a result, we will only be permitted to roster 6 year-olds to our Tyke teams under very narrow conditions. For Elmvale Minor Hockey Association, this means that we will be required to reduce our 2017-2018 season registered Tyke teams from 4 to 3. All players born in 2010 will be rostered to these three Tyke teams and will participate in the Georgian Bay Triangle Local League (GBTLL) with full-ice games beginning in December, as we have done in the past.

For this year only, OMHA has stipulated that we can carry 5 players born in 2011 so that we can place them on our three Tyke teams to achieve a total of 11 players on each one. The remaining players born in 2011 will be rostered, along with some 5 year-olds, to an Initiation Program (IP) team. IP will focus on development and will not be permitted full ice play. We anticipate an opportunity for half-ice games with other centres in our area. We will work on determining exactly what this will look like. Where applicable, Elmvale Minor Hockey will refund Tyke registration costs to be in line with IP registration amounts.

**There is a regular practice on Saturday, September 23 at 8:10. During this ice time, parents/guardians are encouraged to attend a meeting in the dressing room that will allow for questions or if they would like more information. Parents of 2011 players who wish to have their child evaluated for possible placement on a Tyke team should complete a request form that will be available online, attached to this letter, and at the meeting. This evaluation will take place at the regularly scheduled practice on Wednesday, September 27 at 5:10 and the form must be submitted at the beginning of this practice. The remaining players will be placed on an IP roster.**

As an executive, we truly apologize for the late date for these changes. There was a breakdown in communication at levels above us that left us with our hands tied. We would like to assure you that we are committed to providing a safe, fun, and educational hockey experience for your young players.

Tina Robertson

EMHA President

tina.rob@hotmail.ca

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (parent name) wish to have my child, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ born in 2011, evaluated for placement on a Tyke team for the 2017-2018 hockey season.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_