



2010 Preseason Newsletter

Welcome all to the 2010 hockey season. We are looking forward to another successful season and seeing new and continuing players out on the turf.

Last season, significant progress was made with respect to the development of juniors, the senior competition, WestVic, our links with Hockey Victoria and the administrative side of the Association. To continue this momentum, this season the Hockey Ballarat Committee are putting in place some changes that will improve the administration for clubs and officials, expand the junior program and seek new opportunities to improve the hockey profile and facilities in Ballarat. We hope this will create an exciting environment for players, supporters and administrators this season.

We are pleased to provide you with some key dates leading up to the commencement of the 2010 season and the draft game and training times for each age group. These will be finalised over the coming weeks and a final draw and training schedule will be announced.

All information will be available on our website as soon as it is finalised and passed on to all team delegates.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN MARCH

Information	Age Group	Dates & Times
Pre-season 'Have-a-Hit' for new and current players (across field 7 a-side games)	JUNIORS	Sunday 28 th March 11.00 – 12.30pm
	BBQ - All welcome	12.30 – 1.00pm
	SENIORS	Sunday 28th March 1.00 -2.30pm
Junior Team/Individual Nomination Close	All Juniors	27 th March 2010
Senior Team/Individual Nomination Close	Senior Men & Women	27 th March 2010



JUNIORS

During the 2009 season, Hockey Ballarat was successful in receiving a grant to review the current juniors structure and propose a way forward for future development. In the off-season, this grant has funded an evaluation of our Junior Hockey program and of other Associations across Victoria who have junior programs. Amongst the many recommendations from this evaluation (full report available in coming weeks on www.hockeyballarat.org.au), Hockey Ballarat will trial mixed competitions for all junior age ranges in 2010. Individual junior players are encouraged to contact Cristin Ruyg our Project Officer on 0407 338 508 about getting involved in a junior team. Hockey Ballarat is happy to assist all juniors in finding a team. We welcome anyone who would like to enter as an individual and those who can enter as a team. All junior teams need to be nominated and submitted to Cristin by 27th March (see table below). The development of our 'next generation of hockey players' is dependant on volunteers to assist with coaching, umpiring, mentoring, assisting with canteen duty and just lending a hand – if you can assist in any way please contact us.

Hockey Ballarat's Junior Development Officer Jess Watts, has continued to work with Ballarat primary schools over the summer, which has increased junior participation significantly. In our next addition Jess will provide you with an overview of what the program has achieved in the past 6 months. Jess also assisted in some junior focus groups late last year which has led to us developing a new junior-led committee which will help monitor the junior competition throughout the season. Interested young people who would like to be part of this committee can contact Jess on 0400914389 for more information.

Junior playing times for 2010 will be finalised over the coming weeks. **Indicative times** are shown below.

Age Group	Game Times (Draft)
Junior Season Commences	23/24 th April 2010
Junior Season Finishes	16/17th Sept
Under 8 (skills session, term 2 only)	Friday evening 4.30 – 5.30 pm.
Under 13	Friday evening 5.30 – 6.30pm (games across the field, with four teams playing at the same time)
Under 15	Saturday 8.30 – 10.30am (some games may be scheduled on Friday evening or Sunday morning if required)
Under 17	Saturday 10.30 – 12.30pm



SENIORS

Hockey in Ballarat enjoyed a successful 2009 season with increased player numbers in both men's and women's competitions and lots of opportunity for younger players. We look forward to this continuing for 2010.

Individual senior players are encouraged to contact Cristin Ruyg our Project Officer on 0407 338 508 about getting involved in a senior team. Hockey Ballarat is happy to assist all seniors in finding a team, there are a number of teams who would like new or experienced players. Clubs will need to nominate their teams to Hockey Ballarat by March 27 (see Table below) so that full season draws and training timetables can be finalised.

If you would like to come and have a bit of fun before the season starts there will be an organised 'Have-a-Hit' session on Sunday 28th March from 1.00 - 2.30pm for seniors. All past and new players are invited to come along, have a hit and register your interest.

Competition	Game Times (Draft)
Senior Season Commences	17/18 th April 2010
Senior Season Finishes	17/18th Sept
Senior Women	Saturday 12.30 – 6.30pm Sunday 10.30am – 6.30 pm
Senior Men	Saturday 12.30 – 6.30pm Sunday 10.30am – 6.30 pm

WESTVic

Hockey Ballarat is a committed supporter of the WestVic representative squad and will continue to work with them in 2010 to promote opportunities for local elite players. This partnership will continue to work on ways to improve broader hockey participation in Ballarat.

NEW TURF

Hockey Ballarat is currently talking to a number of turf suppliers to obtain quotes to replace the current surface. We are also frequently meeting with the City of Ballarat to assist us in planning the best way forward to ensure we can get the best surface for our region. A meeting to discuss this further with various association members will be held on Wednesday 24th March, any members interested in having ongoing input on how to move this forward please contact Cristin Ruyg our project officer for more information. Keep an eye on the noticeboard at the ground, when all the information has been received we will put some samples and details on it to keep you up to date.



MEMBERSHIP AND PLAYING FEES FOR 2010

Hockey Ballarat strive to make junior and senior hockey affordable for all players and parents and have a policy of keeping team membership and game fees as low as possible. All fees are invested back into Ballarat Hockey development by paying umpires, providing training balls and junior equipment and maintaining the pitch and facilities. Sponsorships assist Hockey Ballarat to keep the cost to players down. Your Club or team coach/manager will be able to advise you of team membership costs and weekly game costs as individual clubs/ teams vary. Hockey Ballarat Fees for 2010 Season are;

Team	Fees
Under 8 – term 2 only	\$30 per player
Under 13	\$55 per player
Under 15	\$550 per team
Under 17	\$550 per team
Senior Men	\$1650 per team plus \$66 per week turf fee
Senior Women	\$1650 per team plus \$66 per week turf fee

The fees have increased by 10% this year and this is due to the continual increase of costs for ground maintenance and upkeep, the sustainability and growth of our junior program, continuing to grow the sinking fund for a new turf surface.

BYLAWS

During the 2009 season, a significant deficiency in the current association bylaws was highlighted. The ensuing confusion led the Hockey Ballarat committee to convene a special subcommittee, with the purpose of reviewing the current document and proposing modifications appropriate to our association. Additionally, the subcommittee was charged with making the rules easier to understand and remove contradictions.

Invitations were extended to all clubs in both the men and women's competition to be represented on the committee. This resulted in a broad cross-section of the hockey community having input into the by laws of our competition. Over a 6 month period, the committee met and discussed each section of the current document in detail. Other association's, such as Geelong, Bendigo and Albury, laws were also looked at to ensure the proposed document was as comprehensive as possible. Thank you to all who attended these meetings and assisted in the redevelopment.

The final step in the process is for the committee to pass the document back to the members of the association to be ratified. This process involves a Special General Meeting of the association and a simple majority vote. This meeting will be held at 6:00pm Wednesday April 7th. The bylaws can be viewed on the website www.hockeyballarat.org.au or please contact our project officer if you need a hard copy.



PERTH JUNIORS TEAM IS COMING

We will have some visitors in town on Monday 12th April. The Collie Hockey Under 16 boys team is coming to play in Ballarat. Collie is a small town with a population of approx 10,000 people in the south west of Western Australia. Every two years the Collie Mens Hockey Association organises a tour for their boys to the Eastern States. This year they are playing in Tasmania and Victoria over a two week timeframe. We are currently looking for some under 15 boys/girls to play them at 4.30pm on Monday 12th. If you are interested, please fill in the EOI form on-line or contact our project officer on the number below. All supporters most welcome to come and cheer on the two teams.

SPONSORSHIP

We are currently seeking new sponsorship opportunities for 2010 and were hoping that if the Hockey Ballarat community has any ideas for future sponsors or in-kind partnerships our project officer or Cheyne Hackett (finance committee chair) would be happy to hear from you.

This Hockey Ballarat update is in response to feedback from players and parents who would like more information about hockey in Ballarat. We intend this to be ongoing. We always value your input.



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U can find out more at

our Ballarat West branch, 1302 Sturt Street,
Ballarat or phone 5333 7600.

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