



Newsletter Vol 1 July 2010

Greetings Colorado Field Hockey Player, Coaches, Officials, Parents and Fans!

Welcome to the inaugural COFHA (that's the Colorado Field Hockey Association for short) Newsletter

What's COFHA?

So glad you asked. COFHA (pronounced "Coe-Fuh") is the newly formed organization that is going to be the center point for all things field hockey in Colorado. Here's our Mission Statement:

The Colorado Field Hockey Association is dedicated to supporting, promoting and expanding the sport of field hockey at all levels.

COFHA is designed to be an umbrella organization to provide opportunities for youth, club, intra-mural/club college, coach, umpire, national, international, parent and support organizations for the fostering of field hockey in the state of Colorado and in surrounding states where similar organizations do not exist.

There has been a vital need for an organization like COFHA in Colorado for many years and we're very excited to finally have the ball rolling. In an effort to ensure everyone's needs are addressed, COFHA's Interim Board of Directors consists of players, coaches, umpires and parents of youth players. To date, the board has incorporated as a business in the state, ratified bylaws, created a temporary board of directors, and applied for our not-for-profit status (501c3).

So, what does all this mean for me?

COFHA's long term goals include the development of a proper water-based pitch and training facility; large tournaments for players of all ages and skills; camps and intensives for players, coaches and umpires; and developing Colorado into a place that's renowned for excellent field hockey.

It's going to take some work to get there, so our short term plans include:

OPPORTUNITIES TO PLAY

COFHA's overarching goal for players is to provide opportunities to play, improve and get rewarded for their efforts.

- We're going to be hosting several indoor and outdoor tournaments over the course of the year. These tournaments may be stepping stones for teams to compete in regional tournaments or get entry fees paid for at larger events.
- We're creating the *COFHA Ascent Program* which is going to be a structured club league for all levels of play, both youth and adult. It will give players a chance to get coaching and lots of time with stick & ball, play in small game formats, and improve the quality of their play and raise the level of play in Colorado.

MEMBERSHIP, INAUGURAL MEETING AND BOARD ELECTIONS

- We're an interim board and the bylaws only allow us to act for 12 months so we're scheduling a meeting for anyone who is interested in field hockey at any level. At that meeting, we'll be soliciting membership in COFHA (no membership dues yet!). **Everyone—players, coaches, parents, umpires and fans— is encouraged to attend the meeting and become a member** because that is how you get your voice heard.
- Once you're a member (as long as you're over 18) you're eligible to be on the board or nominate someone you think should be running the show.
- We'll be sending out a survey (see more about it below) by with possible dates, times and locations for this meeting so take a few minutes to let us know what would work best for you. We're thinking about either at the State Games (7/30-8/1) or at the Scrimmage Day (8/28) but other suggestions are welcome.

WEB PRESENCE

- We want to get everyone using www.coloradofieldhockey.com as the central online information source for all things field hockey in Colorado. The site has been up and running for years but is in need of renewed focus on posting schedules, information, coaching tips, photos and news from the board. While schools and other private groups will have their own sites, Facebook pages etc, this is going to be the "go to" place. Check it out now and look for news as updates occur. The website will feature an FAQ section and a way to contact people with questions visitors may have.
- If you have anything you wish to post to the COFHA calendar, please email your information to Rachel Sparkes <rachelsparkes@msn.com> no less than 7 days prior to the event. If you have a lot of information (more than name, date(s), time, cost and brief details) or a flyer, Rachel requests that you send her a PDF version.
- If you have questions about the website, or questions in general, feel free to contact whit@fetedenver.com. He'll be acting as the clearing house for information for the time being.
- We're creating a survey at surveymonkey.com so we can know what your needs and wants and get some guidance from you about the direction you'd like to see COFHA take. Look for that in the next few weeks and please take the time to fill it out.

That's it for now but keep your eyes open for news, the survey and updates. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, feel free to contact any of us!

Thanks!

The Board and Advisors

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