

Hi Everyone,

I hope you and your family are all staying well during this very unusual time. I wanted to reach out to provide an update about some behind the scenes work going on with the OHA. We are all anxious to get back to the game we love, with exciting events and initiatives getting ready to roll out. We have been spending this down time preparing for the days ahead when restrictions are lifted and we can resume a more familiar norm.

Some of the initiatives that were taking place just prior to the first lockdown.....

- The OHA was successful in being approved for a grant from the CHA. This grant has specific purposes and guidelines.....junior development and awareness. The OHA will be creating clinic bags that will include safety glasses, big blues and a few pairs of gloves. We will also be creating t-shirts specifically for juniors in regular attendance of Handball programming. This is a great way to further promote the game as well as to offer incentives to the kids participating.

The OHA will be creating an overview of Handball (including a brief description/picture of 1, 3, 4 wall) that will be placed on all of our club's bulletin boards, as well as handed out to new players. This will also include contact and follow up information. COMING SOON 😊

- We provided clinic supplies for an elementary school in Toronto, with one of the OHA members ready to support learn to play handball lessons. Thanks Natasha Golding for reaching out and getting this going.
- The City of Pickering was preparing to add Saturday morning clinics for new players to its already existing Wednesday league night (which had recently added 2 novice players).
- If you haven't had the chance to check out all of the promotional work being done by Brad Warren to attract some attention to Handball in Ontario, it is worth the look. Using social media platforms, Brad is posting lots of content to help promote the game and peak interest (particularly for 1 wall aka Wallball). This has been effective in recruiting some new adult players to the GTA group that is going strong.
- We have Rick Stybak who is rolling out a new junior initiative to help grow the game in Mississauga. Rick is focusing on recruiting neighbouring kids to a local 1 wall court that he has mapped out on a school wall. This will be a great summer time activity that I look forward to seeing grow.
- Wally Oprzedek continues to work hard in his strategies to grow the game at the junior level. Wally will be utilizing the Brant Hill 1 wall courts located in Burlington to offer clinics and hopefully recruit some of the local players into a summer of 1 wall. Wally has also been collaborating with the City of St. Catharines to resurface the outdoor courts at Port Weller.
- Wally and Mark Polgrabia are also spearheading a new initiative for Junior Programming at a facility we have yet to put down roots. White Oaks will be

welcoming Handball programming and events (4 wall) in the Fall. This is an exciting opportunity and new venue to check out!

- The OHA is actively engaged in exploring various grant opportunities for potential funding in the future. This is an ongoing venture that can be lengthy and multifactorial. Stay tuned.
- **We are looking for a couple volunteers to be our GROWING THE GAME REGIONAL REPS. These reps will be listed on the OHA website and Facebook page. They are not board members, however they play a vital role in growing our game as they are often the first point of contact for a new player. This rep will help connect a new player with the information for local games and venue options. Thank you to those who have already volunteered, if everyone could have a look at the vacant regions and please contact me to sign up.**

GTA- Brad Warren

Mississauga- Rick Stybak

Pickering-

Niagara- Wally Oprzedek

Burlington/Hamilton-

Stay Safe Handball Family and Friends, I hope to see you all soon!!

**Jenine Wilson
OHA President**