Opportunities for OGC Family Commitment Hours and Volunteerism

During the past year, some OGC Member Families have asked questions about matters pertaining to OGC Family Commitment Hours. The Board of Directors would like to take this opportunity to clarify the need for Family Commitment Hours and the format of administration.

As a not-for-profit organization, which always endeavors to offer the best programs at a reasonable and competitive price, OGC needs to rely upon its Membership for delivery of certain tasks that would otherwise require a sizable addition of paid staff at the Club. These tasks fall into the categories of Operational (e.g., gym cleaning, meets, etc.), Recognition (e.g., Awards Gala), Communication (e.g., Website, FastTrack, blogs, etc.) and Social (Holiday Season Party). The delivery of these tasks by additional paid OGC staff would result in a sizable increase of Member Fees. At present, OGC Member Fees are comparable to most other gymnastics clubs in Ontario. The OGC Family Commitment Hours are less than most other gymnastics clubs in Ontario. We feel that this is an attractive combination that results in OGC being a successful Club, for the athletes, families and Community of Oakville.

The current Family Commitment Hour requirement of 1 hour per training hour is based on an annual forecast conducted by the Board of Directors, in collaboration with OGC staff. The forecast is not an exact science, as the depth, breadth and timing of Family Commitment Tasks/Activities are not known with 100% certainty at the beginning of the Season. In a perfect world, the Board would establish an annual calendar of these tasks/activities, with the ability of Member Families to sign-up and set their schedule for the full Season. In reality, throughout the Season, some tasks are added (e.g., a new meet, set-up of a new facility, etc.) and some tasks are eliminated due to cancelation of an event/activity.

For the purposes of contributing to Family Commitment Hours, the Board of Directors and the OGC Staff encourage all Family Members to monitor the Family Commitment Hours spreadsheet that’s posted on the website, as well as sign-up to tasks when presented through Sign-Up Genius. The Family Commitment Hours spreadsheet is a great tool that highlights the many activities which allow Members to exhaust their Family Commitment Hours. As a reminder, many of these activities occur later in the Season; however, all Members are encouraged to exhaust their Family Commitment hours as soon as possible, as personal scheduling may not always allow for participation.

In previous Seasons, some Members have raised concerns that there have not been enough tasks/activities to exhaust their annual Family Commitment Hours. During the 2016 – 2017 Season, there were a number of tasks/activities with unfilled hours, which leave organizers scrambling to execute these activities.

The Board of Directors and the OGC Staff, thank all Members in their efforts to support the Club’s need for Family Commitment Hours. This allows OGC to provide exceptional coaching, combined with state of the art equipment, for all levels of gymnastics for the Community of Oakville and our own children.