We have had a couple of complaints regarding our equipment policy, particularly around the following:

ETMH requires all players to wear:

1. Official ETMH jersey and socks
2. Navy hockey gloves or custom gloves approved by the association
3. Custom pant shells approved by the association
4. White helmet

In general there is some concern regarding the financial burden of purchasing new equipment for the upcoming season when functional equipment is already owned. Additionally, that the white helmet and custom gloves are not mainstream colours that will work for spring teams and other play outside of ETMH.

The policy around standardized team equipment was developed to promote a unified team identity, consistency, and fairness across the roster. While we realize this may feel like an inconvenience initially (especially during the first year of transition), it is part of a long term goal to help create a strong and recognizable program, culture and brand.

Uniformity isn’t just about on-ice appearance. It helps reinforce a sense of team cohesion and pride in representing Elgin Thames. This is something we have seen benefit other organizations both in how players perceive themselves and how they are viewed by opponents. We recognize that this may not align with the existing equipment owned by families, but overtime, as players grow and require new equipment this uniformity become standard.

In subsequent years, the development of a resale program will become an option as players grow out of their gear and sell it to those up and coming in ETMH but right now we must start somewhere.

This is not a new policy and idea that is being created by ETMH, as many associations around us run similar policies when it comes to player equipment and apparel. For example, London Devilettes requires red helmets, green pants, and gloves among other items. Ausable Valley is mandating Red Helmets. St. Mary’s, Strathroy and Mt. Brydges teams all have Navy helmets for the most part.

We would like to adhere to this policy for the upcoming season and have all ETMH teams with the same look and brand. We will be issuing out our sponsorship program that allows for both team and individual sponsorships and this should help reduce the impact in year one of these added costs for any parents that are concerned.

Thanks

ETMH Co-Presidents

Ian McDonald, Shawn Pede and Jake McKillop