

Montreal, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008

**To:** 2008 Edition Participating Teams  
**From:** Sophie Bedard, President of the Hosting Committee

Enclosed in this mailing:

- General Information
- Maps to get to and around Montreal
- Schedules and tournament rules
- Players list

<b>TO BE RETURNED BY JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup> 2008:</b> <b>(for program purposes ONLY)</b>	<b>- Players list</b> (can also be forwarded through our web site form) <b>- Team picture</b> (ideally should be sent via email in JPG or GIF format)
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**General information:**

1- REGISTRATION

Registration for all teams will take place prior to the coaches meeting on July 2nd at the Holiday Inn Pointe-Claire Hotel between 6 pm and 7 pm. The players do not have to be there, only the coaches. It will then be your last chance to add players to your roster submitted on June 1<sup>st</sup> for the program. It should take 5 minutes per coaching staff to register. **Keep in mind that you must stay at one of our sponsoring hotels. Should you decide to stay elsewhere, be ready to pay the \$500 penalty fee at registration in order to be eligible to play the next day.**

2- COACHES MEETING

The coaches' meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Pointe-Claire Hotel on July 2nd at 7:00 pm. The hotel is located at 6700 TRANS CANADA (Highway 40), on the corner of St-Jean boulevard. Its location is highlighted on your map. During this meeting, we will discuss the tournament rules and the differences between Canadian and U.S. general playing rules. We will choose the All Star Teams for the opening ceremony on Thursday night. We will also give you the coaches' package which includes the program, tourism guides and last minutes updates.

3- OPENING CEREMONY

The opening ceremony is always something very special in Montreal. This year is the 15<sup>th</sup> edition and the theme is the PARENTS YEAR. Each category will play an All Star Game where two players per team will be invited to play. The 14U game will be at 7 pm at Hebert park, the 18U at 8pm and the 16U at 9 pm. When you enter the park, you will cross the fun zone where few games will be organized; parents will compete against the players. Each team will be allowed to send two sets of participants in the Look alike Contest. The selected players will have to look like her mom or her dad **OR** the opposite. The participants will be presented to the crowd in a parade form just before the All Star Games. Great prizes to win! It will be a lot of fun and the FUN zone will be open as of 6 pm at Hebert park (also highlighted on your map).

4- PINS AND GIFTS TRADING

As the tournament welcomes teams from all over North America, we strongly recommend that all teams trade a small gift (like a pin or similar object) that represents their team or

area at every game of the tournament.

5- **FRENCH vs ENGLISH**

Do not be scared, it's not so bad! I know some of you are very concerned. Montreal is a bilingual city. Most of the people manage very well in English and you will easily find your way around. As I mention every year, one thing that is very important for you to know is that the road signs are all in French and they tell you **what you CAN do** as opposed to most of the other cities where the signs tell you what you cannot do (i.e. turn left). Also, you cannot make a right turn on a red light. 5 miles = 8 kilometres. Here are a few words that might be helpful:

East = Est / South = Sud / North = Nord / West = Ouest / Hotel = Hotel / Exit = Sortie / Right = Droite / Left = Gauche / Park = Parc / Road = Chemin / Softball = Balle-molle / Phone = Telephone / Downtown = Centre ville / Highway = Autoroute / Mall = Centre d'achat / Subway = Metro / Bus = Autobus / English = Anglais
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6- Scrimmage games on July 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> (daytime: between 8 am and 6 pm). The deadline is May 15th, please contact me if you would like to enter and do not see your team name below or see it and have changed your plans. We will forward this schedule mid June.

14U		16U		18U	
Team name	Ready to play	Team name	Ready to play	Team name	Ready to play
QC, Rive Sud	July 1 – 8 am	QC, Rive Sud	July 1 – 8 am	NB, Madawaska	July 2 – 8 am
ON, Stratford	July 2 – 8 am	MA, Invaders	July 2 – 1:30 pm	NB, DTED B.	July 2 – 10 am
QC, Lac St-Louis	July 1 – 8 am	QC, Rebelles 92	July 1 – 8 am	NB, DTED L.	July 2 – 10 am
QC, Rebelles 94	July 1 – 8 am	QC, Rebelles 93	July 1 – 8 am	NB, DTED S.	July 2 – 10 am
QC, Lanaudière	July 1 – 8 am			QC, Rebelles 89	July 1 – 8 am
				QC, Rebelles 91	July 1 – 8 am

7- Each site will have volunteers trained with first aid and all necessary equipment. Our VIP service will also be there as usual. This VIP service is basically one person from our committee on call 24 hours a day during the tournament and in charge of helping your team if anything happens and needs to be resolved while in Montreal (car accident, visit at the hospital, need a dentist, etc.) Please make sure that you have insurance covering any injury that would need ambulance transportation and Hospital care as it is impossible for us to get insurance that will cover players from outside of Quebec. Most of the time, you will have to pay the fee at the hospital and get refunded back home (cost vary depending on the injury and are usually not very expensive).

8- If you are from the USA, you do not need a passport or a visa to get into Canada. Any official ID card is fine IF requested. Bring this letter proving your are coming to the tournament.

We do suggest that you contact the US border you will cross to see what they are asking from you to go back home. We have called many ones but the information they require is not the same depending on the state. Some may ask for a birth certificate or a copy of it.

9- The umpires in the tournament are also coming from everywhere in North America. If you know any umpires interested in attending, they can register through our web site.

10- Something new this year is the application of our **security plan**. Last year, as some of you may have heard, six cars have been stolen at either hotels or ball parks, some were also forced into so we decided to enforce security around the tournament. We will explain more during the coaches meeting but the important thing for your to know right now is that all hotels have security guards 24 hours a day from Wednesday night to Sunday at noon and we will have volunteers securing the parking of each park during the

tournament. We will have the design of each parking in the tournament program to let you know where the volunteer will be securing the area.

Although there have not been many incidents reported while sightseeing, we still recommend that you bring with you a Club bar or similar security device simply to dissuade possible threats on your vehicle.

This story made the front page of the newspaper last summer in Montreal (5 million readers) so we do not think any thief would be stupid enough to try anything but still, we will not take any chance. We also did test our security plan last August in another event and no incidents have been reported. Montreal is a very safe city, it was really a bad luck.

Important notice: Security device such as Lo-Jack (USA) and Boomerang (Canada) are not working cross border. These companies are currently working to upgrade their technology but the old analog device of Lo-Jack will not be working in Canada. We recommend that you verify with your Lo-Jack dealer to confirm.

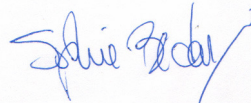
- 11- Finally, I wish to stress how important your team picture and players list are for the program. The date of birth is also important **as we give away gifts to players who are celebrating their birthday during the tournament**. Here is the direct link if you'd like to send your roster from our web site:

[http://www.montrealchallenge.com/Ete/Roster\\_on\\_line.html](http://www.montrealchallenge.com/Ete/Roster_on_line.html)

My email address for your team picture is: [challenge@videotron.ca](mailto:challenge@videotron.ca)

Remember that this list is only for the program and you will be allowed to add players (if needed) at registration time.

I hope that this information will help you plan your trip to Montreal. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, it will be a pleasure to assist you.



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SB/nc