

Cougar Faithful,

After careful thought and a long deliberation, the Cougars have decided not to form Norcal AA teams this season. The main factor was the cost of the program to both the player families and the club. During these difficult economic times, we felt we need to focus on other, less expensive hockey areas while still offering a place for all players to stay within the Cougar organization. The significant strength of the Norcal and CAHA Midget 18 division last season was another large factor in our decision. The 18A division was full of talented teams and players last season and we feel it will only improve this coming year, allowing for excellent development opportunities for its participants. Keeping these factors in mind, we encourage all returning 16AA players to tryout and participate on the 18A team. We are very excited about the great potential this year brings and hope to see all of our Cougar families back for the 2009-10 season.

Although we can never know exactly what tryouts will hold, the Cougars anticipate and have allocated ice for 1 mite, 2 squirt, 2 pee-wee, 2 bantam, 16A, and 18A teams. We hope to unveil the 2009-10 coaching staff at the banquet Sunday April 19th as well as the specific details of all the tryouts. We are pleased to have some past coaches returning after being unavailable last season, accompanied by many of our experienced coaches willing to move to age groups we feel will be most beneficial for the development of the entire player base. We are looking forward to what will be an outstanding year for the Cougars.

As always, if you have any specific questions on these or any other Cougar matters please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank You for your dedication!!!

Sincerely,

Chris Hathaway
California Cougar President