

Orangeville Tigers season underway with 12 divisions playing

By Brian Lockhart

Girls hockey in Orangeville as well as the rest of the province is getting stronger as new players enter the sport and learn it from a young age.

The Orangeville Tigers have already started the 2022-23 season and have eight competitive teams across four age divisions. Competitive teams travel as far as Orillia in the north and Scarborough in the southeast during the regular season. The travel house league teams have created a loop with Caledon, Brampton, Clearview, North Halton, and Mississauga that is called the Greater Dufferin-Peel Female Hockey League.

In the Senior Rec division, almost 100 women are playing on six teams. Many of these players are parents and coaches of some of the younger Tigers.

The Tigers have been a club since 1974 when they started out as a single team called the Orangeville Sweethearts. They have grown to become a well-organized and respected hockey club.

On top of the regular season schedule, the Tigers have three tournaments organized for this year.

The 43rd annual Sweetheart Tournament is the Club's biggest and most popular tournament. The Sweetheart Tournament features competitive rep and DS teams. Each team is guaranteed four games during the competition.

The competition level is high in the event as skilled teams battle it out to come on top and claim a championship. The tournament also features a skills competition that allows players to showcase their abilities and compete against other individual players.

This year, the Sweetheart Tournament will be held from Jan. 27 to 29, at three arenas in Orangeville as well as spillover games in neighbouring towns.

In February, the Club will host the 10th annual Winter Classic Tournament. This is a tournament designed for house league teams. Each team is guaranteed four games during the two day tournament.

It gives house league players the opportunity to meet up with other teams from outside of the region and is a very popular tournament.

Later in the season, the Tigers will host the 4th annual March Madness Jamboree. This is more of a festival than a tournament. It is for U7 and U9 house league teams.

The tournaments fill fast as there is a lot of interest in travelling to play in tournaments.

The Tigers already have teams registered to play from as far away as British Columbia and Quebec.