



# THE FACTCAT

September 2011

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## Novi Youth Hockey Association

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Website:  
[www.noviyouthhockey.org](http://www.noviyouthhockey.org)

Angela Petty  
Program Administrator

**NYHA Office Hours**  
Wednesdays: 6-9pm  
Saturdays: 9am-12pm

Mailboxes for every team and all NYHA Board members are found on the main level next to the Blue Rink windows.

## Welcome Back

### Here we go again – from Bob DeSpirt, President NYHA

Welcome back to all our past members and hello to our new members. The Board has been working very hard during the off season to get ready. This included a new jersey design which was the result of the contest we held last season. We also had to significantly restructure our Mite program because of the new MAHA rule.

With the economy in Michigan, we were not sure what the season would bring. For the 2011-2012 season, we will have 37 teams as compared to 40 last season. We attribute this degradation to the new MAHA required changes in mite hockey and the Michigan economy.

This season, we had more difficulty than ever in getting parents to volunteer to be head coaches. I want to personally extend my thanks to those that stepped up at the last minute to preclude us from having to turn kids away.

Please get involved. The more people that get involved, the better the experience for the kids and the less workload there is for everyone to share. When more people get together, the task or assignment becomes easier to tackle. Volunteering is very rewarding and offers you an opportunity to share your expertise, learn new skills, meet new people, and share in your child's activities and interests. Volunteer coaches are the backbone of the NYHA. Without them our association would not exist! Also important are our managers who help the financing and management of the teams. Your child's experience in the program is a direct result of the positive and active involvement of the volunteers who lead your team. Don't be a bench warmer, be a part of the solution – and excitement. The kids AND you will have a better time because of it. Additionally, the volunteers who serve as your Board put in countless hours in directing, managing, and facilitating what we hope will be a great hockey experience.

Many of us like to say that the NYHA has become a destination of choice rather than an alternative. This is a result of the strengths of our Association and we all work very hard to make the NYHA one of the premier associations. The team coaches and team managers are the backbone of our Association. Take a minute to thank them for their time; it is a long season.

We have one of the best websites in the industry. Check it out. Spend some time on the Parents page and the FAQ/Why page. This is your Association and we always like to hear what you would like to see implemented and what you like about the NYHA. See you in the rink.

### SpiritWear Sales

Some of you may have already noticed that on most Friday nights 5:00pm until 8:00pm and on most Saturdays 11:00am until 3:00pm Novi SpiritWear is being sold at the Novi Ice Arena (through the Christmas holidays). There is a large selection of sweatshirts, hats, t shirts, and jackets. Cash and major credit cards are accepted. See for yourself.

## What Happens Now?

For families that are new to hockey or to the NYHA, we would like to provide them with an overview of what they can expect throughout the season.

### All Players

**A Team Meeting:** All NYHA coaches are required to hold a team meeting with parents and players early in the season. Some topics that will be covered include introduction of the team staff, coaching philosophy, parent and player responsibilities, team discipline, and registration paperwork. Ask questions. Don't be afraid to ask questions after the meeting.

**Schedule Overview:** NYHA travel teams begin their season in August and house teams in late August and both continue to the end of March. League games begin in late September for Travel Teams and early October for House Teams.

**Fair Ice Time:** The NYHA requires all House coaches to adhere to the rule of 'Fair Ice Time'. All players must have the same opportunity at ice time in games and practices. Bench-shortening is not acceptable. Ice time may be withheld for disciplinary reasons, but never for ability.

**End of Season House Tournament:** All age groups, with the exception of Midget BB, participate in an in-house NYHA tournament. This is a double-elimination competition that runs throughout the month of March. Some divisions may play a round robin format.

**Financials:** Additional expenses incurred by the team are the responsibility of the team members and are not paid by the Association. These may include charges such as tournament registrations, hotel lodging, spirit wear, and social activities. Managers are required to distribute a monthly financial statement to all team members and file a copy with the NYHA Treasurer.

**Association Survey:** At the conclusion of the season, the Association conducts an electronic survey of all members to assess their satisfaction with their team and overall experience with the NYHA. Results are provided to the coaches and are reviewed by the NYHA Board of Directors.

### House Mini-Mites and Mites 2003-2006 Birth Years

These age groups compete in the I-275 League, which consists of teams from Novi, Plymouth, Canton, Farmington Hills, Livonia, Livingston, and Compuware. Some teams may also participate in a tournament, either local or out-of-town, at the team's discretion.

Mini-Mite games are usually played on Sundays and are cross-ice 4-on-4 format. No scores are kept and there is a strong emphasis on fun and skill development. By MAHA rule, Mini-Mites are not allowed to play full-ice games. Mite games are usually played on Saturdays and are either half ice or full ice depending on team structure. Half ice games are played 4-on-4 format. Scores are kept, referees are used, and there is a strong emphasis on fun and skill development. Full ice games are played 5-on-5 format. Scores are kept, referees are used, and there is a strong emphasis on fun and skill development.

### House Squirts, Pee Wees, Bantams, and Midgets

**League Play:** These age groups compete in the Little Caesar's Amateur Hockey League (LCAHL). Games may be played against teams such as Farmington Hills, Chelsea, Plymouth, Detroit, Garden City, Westland, and Howell. Teams are generally in Southeast Michigan for league play.

### Travel

All travel teams play in the LCAHL. Additional information about the LCAHL is available at: [www.lcahl.pucksystems2.com](http://www.lcahl.pucksystems2.com).

### All Players

**Tournaments:** Most teams will participate in at least one tournament at an out-of-town venue, at their discretion. Some popular locations are Holland, Cleveland, and Grand Rapids. Teams may also compete in local tournaments, at their discretion.

**District/State Tournament:** Squirt and above teams may also participate in the MAHA District and State Tournament. The NYHA may send up to two teams from each age group to this tournament. House teams are selected based on LCAHL regular-season standings. Your coach will inform you sometime in December on the possibility of your team's participation in these tournaments. All travel squirt and above teams participate.

### General Information

**Get Involved:** You and your child will have a much better experience if you get actively involved with the team or the Association. Volunteer to organize a team outing, host a party (in addition to player parties, some teams also have a party for the adults), run the scoreboard or the penalty box, or help with a team website. Don't wait for the coach or manager to come and ask you to volunteer -- take the initiative to contact them and ask where they could use assistance or to politely suggest your own ideas for volunteering. The team and the Association can only succeed through the dedication and efforts of its members.

**Have Fun:** Relax and enjoy. It's just a game. The kids are here to have fun, improve their hockey skills, get some exercise, and to learn sportsmanship, and life lessons. All of these can be accomplished regardless of the team's win/loss record. Provide positive support to your child, the team staff, the officials, and the opponents.

**Learn:** If you are seeking instructional information regarding the game of hockey, including rules and equipment, an excellent source is the USA Hockey Come Play Youth Hockey web portal, which is linked from the Parents section of the NYHA website.

**More questions?:** Do not hesitate to contact your team coach or team manager if you have any questions regarding your child's team or the NYHA. The Association website also has helpful information for parents and players. The FAQ/Why pages provide answers to the most commonly asked questions including 6:00am and 5:00pm practices and the rotating ice schedule.



# Novi Game Day 2011!

**Mark your calendars! The NYHA 10th Annual Game Day is Saturday, November 5th**

Yes! It's that time of year again. The much anticipated Novi Game Day is right around the corner. Those that are new to the NYHA are in for a treat, and our returning families are well aware of this very special day on the hockey calendar.

House teams will play fellow house teams, with everyone skating hard at the drop of the puck. After all, bragging rites are at stake! Travel teams also participate by inviting an opponent from another association. Here's a sneak peek at what you can look forward to:

- All games will have music and an announcer between the play.
- A 'Mom's Score-O' event before each game with 3 moms from each team competing - and yes, their goals count for their team's game.
- A digital sport photographer will be on-site offering action shots for sale.
- NYHA hats, coats, and clothing will be available for purchase. (Think Holiday shopping...)
- Lunch will be provided for every player.
- Silent auction items.
- Team fundraising sales.
- Many more surprises!

Novi Game Day is held to enable players and families to celebrate the "coolest game on earth!". No other youth hockey association celebrates the way we do here at the NYHA. Year after year the NYHA players look forward to this fun-filled event. Come early and stay late...Game Day has lots to offer on and off the ice for the whole family.

So come on out...wear your black and red with pride! Heck, if you want to make a day of it...last year several teams had a day long tailgate in the parking lot! Yes...it's that cool.

Watch for more news on the website! See you at the rink on November 5th!

## Websites To Bookmark

Novi Youth Hockey Association  
[www.noviyouthhockey.org](http://www.noviyouthhockey.org)

Little Caesars League  
[www.lcahl.pucksystem2.com](http://www.lcahl.pucksystem2.com)

USA Hockey  
[www.usahockey.com](http://www.usahockey.com)

Michigan Amateur Hockey Association  
[www.maha.org](http://www.maha.org)

Arena Maps  
[www.arenamaps.com](http://www.arenamaps.com)

Novi Ice Arena  
[www.noviicearena.com](http://www.noviicearena.com)

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!



**Game Day volunteers are necessary for Game Day to be a success.**

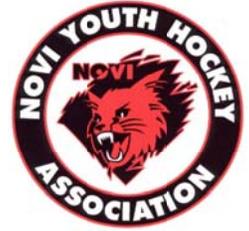
**Anyone interested in helping out with various activities please contact:**

**Phil Coleman**

**Game Day Chairperson at**

**[pcoleman@noviyouthhockey.org](mailto:pcoleman@noviyouthhockey.org)**

# ICE CHIPS



## Little tidbits of great information!

### Final Dues for House and Travel

Final dues will be established at the October Board Meeting and will be posted on the NYHA website.

### Is Your Team Using Professional Coaches?

The NYHA offers training dollars to each House Mini-Mite to Bantam team for hiring recommended trainers for skills building such as power skating, individual and team skills, goalie techniques, and various other player improvement offerings. Please ask your coach if he has classes planned for your team; it makes for fun and exciting practices.

### NYHA Players Earn Over \$8300 in Credits from Kroger & Hillers Programs

137 different NYHA players earned a total of more than \$8300 worth of credits toward their 2011–2012 ice dues just by shopping at their neighborhood Kroger or Hillers store last year. The top NYHA player earned \$350. How did they do it, you ask? They simply asked their family and friends that already shopped at Kroger and Hillers to sign up through the NYHA to direct a portion of the dollars they spent in these stores back to the NYHA as part of the charitable giving programs generously offered by these two organizations. Check out the Kroger-Hillers link on the NYHA homepage at [www.noviyouthhockey.org](http://www.noviyouthhockey.org) to learn more about these programs and start earning credits toward the 2012-13 hockey season now. 2011-12 credits earned will be applied to the October 2011 dues payment.

### Are You Getting NYHA e-mails?

Have you been receiving NYHA e-mail updates? If not, it may just be a simple matter of adding the NYHA to your contact list. To ensure that you receive important news and special announcements from the Novi Youth Hockey Association, please add the following e-mail address to your Address Book or e-mail contacts list : [info@noviyouthhockey.org](mailto:info@noviyouthhockey.org) Please note that some Internet Service Providers (ISPs) such as Comcast, Wide Open West, and Time Warner can block e-mails from the NYHA.

### Fund Raising Monies To Pay Dues

Parents— under very specific criteria teams can use fund raising monies to pay dues; please contact your coach for details.

### Fairness of Ice Time

Every year the NYHA gets questions and comments from parents and coaches regarding this issue. Here's where the Association stands. For all teams in the House Program, the practice of "bench shortening" in games (league, playoff, or tournaments) is not acceptable in the NYHA. All players present should receive a 'fair share' of ice time. It is however, recognized that in some rare instances, this policy may be modified, due to unique game situations.

Head coaches have been encouraged to review this policy with parents in a team meeting at the beginning of the season.

House coaches can determine policies unique to their team. It is encouraged that these policies be in writing and distributed to parents and players at a team meeting early in the season. For example, a coach may tie game time to participation in practices, HOWEVER, the "fairness of ice time" doctrine, must not be completely set aside (i.e.: a team could establish a policy that players would sit a portion of a game for continued missed practices or for disciplinary concerns). All policies need to be enforced equally for all on the team.

### Parental Supervision

It's a long season and while the players are at practice, it's nice to run off and run a few errands. Please be sure that the coaches and/or your team manager at the rink have contact information for you while you are away. It's not unusual to have an injury occur in the game of hockey! If your player gets hurt, don't you want to be there? Please help your coaches help you!

### Locker Room Etiquette - Note Changes

Under USA Hockey/MAHA's Bylaws Novi Youth Hockey asks that members follow the **Minimum Garment Requirement**: A) All team members must dress in a **MINIMUM** of shorts and t-shirt under their hockey gear. This option allows for all players to dress together in the same locker room and prevents any member from feeling left out or unwelcome. B) Acceptable apparel includes: hockey support/cup shorts, UnderArmour shorts, compression leggings/shorts, etc. and a t-shirt will suffice. Please note: **NO EXPOSED UNDERWEAR**. Lastly, out of courtesy for all teammates, please direct any players to the public rest rooms down the hall for any last-minute bathroom stops.

## **NYHA Policies: Protective Gear and Student Coaches**

The only people allowed on the ice during practice are those players rostered to the team and coaches. Having others on the ice invalidates the USA Hockey insurance and puts the head coach at risk for disciplinary action. 'Students' are allowed on the ice that have completed the 'Student Coaching Clinic' conducted by MAHA District 4.

Guest 'instructors' on the ice with teams must wear helmets. If your team has someone come to your practice to work with your team and they are on the ice, they must have a helmet. This includes, coaches, specialty coaches, guest instructors, trainers, helpers, etc. Unfortunately, failure to follow this policy puts the head coach at risk for disciplinary action. Rink personnel will ask those not following this policy to leave the ice. Both of these are USA Hockey rules and are not negotiable.

It is the policy of the Novi Youth Hockey Association that every player and goalie, in every division, is required to wear a neck guard (or a throat/neck shield for goalies) and a mouth guard during all practices and all games, whether at the Novi Ice Arena, or any other arena/rink. Neck guards and mouth guards are to be worn properly during all ice time. Mouth guards dangling out of the player's helmet are not acceptable. Safety for the players and goalies is of the utmost importance. It is the responsibility of each coach to insure that his/her players have the required equipment prior to all practices and games. It is the responsibility of each player's parents/guardians to insure that the required equipment is used correctly during all ice time.

## **Cell Phones/Photographic Devices**

What is the cell phone policy that I'm hearing about? This season, cell phones/photographic devices are NOT allowed in any locker room. With most kids having cell phones with cameras, there is a risk of inappropriate photos being taken and possibly being posted on the web. Hopefully, by keeping the phones out of the locker rooms, this can be avoided. All cell phones or photographic devices are prohibited from the locker room. Suggestions - 1) leave cell phones with parents, 2) assign a parent to collect any cell phones that are brought into the rink and hold them until the end of the game/practice, 3) get a small bag and collect the cell phones as the players enter the locker room. The cell phones/photographic devices can be locked in the locker room and returned as players leave the locker room.

## **Problem Resolution**

At the NYHA, we have a well-honed process for resolving concerns. We strongly encourage members to follow the proper procedures if there is a concern.

If a member encounters a problem in the NYHA program, we strongly suggest that each concern be documented in writing at each stage of review. First discuss the problem with your coach. If the coach cannot resolve the problem, or it involves the coach, then the member should discuss the problem with the House Division Governor or Travel Director. These individuals are all identified on the NYHA website.

The House Division Governor/Travel Director will talk to the parties involved, gather information, and make a decision. For the House program, if the member is not satisfied, they can appeal to the House Director; then the Grievance Committee; then the Board. For the Travel program, if the member is not satisfied, they can appeal to the Grievance Committee; then the Board.

## **Don't Be A Dork. Be A STAR**

As in years past, we will be requiring all parents to sign the 'Parent Code of Conduct' which the team managers will distribute. Additionally, everyone will need to view the S.T.A.R. (Shared Tolerance Appreciation & Respect) video from MAHA, which explains how to be respectful to coaches, referees, players, parents, and other teams; be supportive to all players; show good sportsmanship at all times; and to always use appropriate language. Pretty common sense stuff, right? But most of us have probably witnessed some nasty behavior from an irate spectator or maybe an outspoken parent on your team, and just know it shouldn't happen. It can make or break a great game, and even an entire season if not addressed early. STAR helps to explain how to behave, and why, and what to do when people don't. It's only 9 minutes long so it could easily be worked into your parent meeting. Or if that has already been held, send them the link to watch at home. Please make sure each family has viewed it. You can view it from the NYHA website under Parents, STAR Program.

## **Dryland Opportunities In The Novi Ice Arena**

The Arena has a utility room that can be reserved for team dryland training. This is a great place to begin implementing the off ice precepts of USA Hockey's ADM. Contact the Arena front desk to reserve the room for team use.

# The NYHA 2011—2012 Team Line-Up

## Mini Mite House Division

Governor: Todd Martin

#	<u>Head Coach</u>	<u>Team Name</u>
1	Vince Lorelli	Firecats
2	Matt Handyside	Thundercats
3	Jeff Diegel	Sabrecats

## Mite House Division

Governor: Todd Martin

#	<u>Head Coach</u>	<u>Team Name</u>
1	Jim Allen	Tigers
2	Chris Strong	Panthers
3	Mike Bogenhagen	Cougars
4	Paul Heitzler	Wildcats
5	Dave Senatore	Lions
6	Pete Woods	Pumas

## Squirt House Division

Governor: Tim Manning

#	<u>Head Coach</u>	<u>Team Name</u>
1	Jeff Ineich	Thundercats
2	Danny McColl	Polar Cats
3	Erik Stone	Sabrecats
4	Ricky Spano	Panthers
5	Joe Vig	Predators
6	Dan Deschamps	Tigers

## PeeWee House Division

Governor: Mark Berke

#	<u>Head Coach</u>	<u>Team Name</u>
1	Mark Pagoda	Wildcats
2	Gary Smith	Pumas
3	Mike Pohl	Firecats
4	Tim Manning	Cougars
5	John Henehan	Snowcats
6	Kent Culp	Panthers
7	Pat Coutts	Tigers

### **A Note from your Coaching (ACE) Coordinator...**

Just a reminder that if a coach has not met his/her certificate requirements by December 31, they will be removed from the roster and unable to be on the ice (including practices and behind the bench for games). This includes the head coach and assistants as well. If you are at all unclear about the requirements or how to meet them, please contact Stacey Cerroni, the Association's Coaching (ACE) coordinator. This year in addition to the level training each coach will have to take an on-line age specific class.

## Bantam House Division

Governor: Mark Kubitskey

#	<u>Head Coach</u>	<u>Team Name</u>
1	Bret Holman	Predators
2	Joe Zatyko	Panthers
3	Chris Steffes	Cougars
4	Dave Katz	Firecats
5	Terry Crawford	Sabres

## Midget House Division

Governor: Greg Antilla

	<u>Head Coach</u>	<u>Team Name</u>
B-1	Rob Massard	Predators
B-2	Greg Bell	Panthers
BB	Mark Kubitskey	SaberCats

## **NYHA ICE CATS TRAVEL**

<u>Team</u>	<u>Head Coach</u>
<b>2003 Mite AA</b>	Todd Martin
<b>2002 Squirt A</b>	Mark Berke
<b>2001 Squirt AA</b>	Paul VanAntwerp
<b>2000 Pee Wee A</b>	Matt DiPonio
<b>1999 Pee Wee AA</b>	Harry Youmans
<b>1998 Bantam A</b>	Wade Stevenson

## **NYHA Mission Statement**

*The NYHA organization is committed to cultivating and developing youths in the sport of Ice Hockey. This is achieved through dedicated volunteers teaching and improving hockey skills in an atmosphere that promotes good sportsmanship. This model provides each and every person within the Novi Youth Hockey Association, the opportunity to learn, grow and enjoy the game of hockey.*

## The NYHA 2011-2012 Board of Directors

*The NYHA Board consists of the following elected volunteers:*

Bob DeSpir	Todd Martin
<i>(President)</i>	Stacey Cerroni
Mark Berke	Vince Lorelli
<i>(Vice President)</i>	Joy Orlich
Greg Antilla	Scott Novell
<i>(Executive Treasurer)</i>	Phil Coleman
Todd Pado	TBA
<i>(Associate Treasurer)</i>	TBA

***We Need Volunteers!***

*There are two vacant positions  
on the Novi Youth Hockey  
Association's Board of Directors  
(this is a 1 Year commitment that expires in  
March 2012)*

*If interested please contact:  
info@noviyouthhockey.org*

## October, November, and December, 2011 Ice Schedules

The NYHA negotiates its' ice contracts with the Novi Ice Arena and Compuware Sports Arena. "Negotiates" may be the wrong word, since the Association has little influence on the days and times available to it in the contract process. The Novi Ice Arena sells the NYHA ice and also its other customers as well as providing it's own programming (Learn to Skate, Figure Skating Club, etc.) As a result of the calendar (days per month, weekdays/weekends per month, holidays) and all customer buys, the number of hours available to the NYHA each month is not constant over the length of the contract. In order for the NYHA to have ice in November and December, it must sign a contract from August to March. On average we have 375 hours of ice per month to distribute to our teams. The distribution is done based on the number of hours paid for by each team in their dues and on a rotating allocation schedule. The rotating schedule is used so that teams will still have an ice rotation given that there will be days and times that are blocked out to the Association (randomly). The rotating schedule is also necessary so that our House teams will not be relegated to skating only on the weekends (51% of the Association's ice is on Saturdays and Sundays) and of course so everyone has a fair share of the famous 6AM practice (which the Association is also contractually obligated to buy). November and December are the lowest buy months with about 315 hours each. November ice is limited due to: Game Day (Nov. 5), the Metro High School Invitational Tournament (run by rink - Nov. 18 & 19); The Manon Rheume Tournament (Nov. 10-13); the start of Novi and Northville High Schools hockey season (games run Nov. to early Feb.); and of course, the Thanksgiving weekend. The NYHA has considered moving Game Day to March to provide additional ice to teams but, at this time has not opted to since Game Day is targeted as a beginning of the season bonding event. Additionally in October, the rink has elected to host a AAA tournament (Oct. 14-16) over the objections of the NYHA and a figure skating competition on October 22. The NYHA has no control over the high school hockey season and its allocations of ice. In December, high school hockey continues and the Association loses around 60 hours due to the holidays. Every hour of ice that the Association has purchased, or for that matter that it could contractually buy in November and December has been allocated, unfortunately, there is just not enough ice to keep teams skating at the same frequency as they did in September. except for August and March which happens to have the most ice hours at about 400 each. Both Travel and House are impacted equally with ice allocations. The NYHA annually attempts to work with the Novi Ice Arena to influence its ice buy for the season.

## Learn to Play Hockey Program

Know anyone interested in giving the game a try? The NYHA in conjunction with Tim Horton's is proud to bring our youngest hockey players this great program. Tim Horton's provides a jersey for each student. Consider this the next step after players have completed a learn to skate program.

The focus is the fundamentals of skating and puck skills. The class is open to players ranging in age from 4 to 8. Players will be divided according to age and skill level. There are two sessions offered. All skates are on Tuesdays in the early evening hours. The first session ends on December 20th for a total of 16 skates and the second session begins January 3rd and ends March 27th for a total of 13 skates. You are able to join the first session "in process." There is a 10% Discount if you enroll for Sessions 1 and 2 today!

**The NYHA is proud to announce Dave Roberts will return as head instructor. Dave is an NHL veteran.**

Contact the office to enroll! Or visit our website at [www.noviyouthhockey.org](http://www.noviyouthhockey.org) for more information and to register.

## Washing Instructions for Polyester Jerseys




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Turn jersey inside-out

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Wash: Warm or Cold Water  
**DO NOT WASH HOT**

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Machine Dry: Medium **(NOT HOT)**  
or  
Hang Dry

*\*Remove From Dryer **Promptly**  
To Avoid Wrinkling or Creasing*

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31699 Plymouth Rd., Livonia, MI 48150  
Ph: (734) 421-9295 Fax: (734) 421-8905

### **Check out the NYHA Free Goalie Clinic-**

NYHA House goalies are welcome and encouraged to attend this clinic. The clinic will have limited enrollment. All interested goalies are encouraged to sign up. Priority in placement will be given to our most inexperienced goalies in the younger age divisions. For more information and the sign up form, go to the home page of the NYHA website.

### **Players want to learn more about the game of hockey?**

Check out these articles on the NYHA website under: Players, Library.

- > Shoot on the Fly
- > Develop a Quick Stick and Be a Goal Scorer
- > Get To the Net
- > Good Hockey Habits

### **Parents want to learn more about the game of hockey?**

Check out these articles on the NYHA website under: Parents, Need To Know.

- > Does Competing Against Better Players Make You Better
- > Playing Time
- Under Parents, Health & Safety.
- > Is the Novi Ice Arena Carbon Monoxide Safe?