



THE FACTCAT

September 2012

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Novi Youth Hockey Association

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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

Be Thankful For House Coaches

Each season, the NYHA works diligently to obtain the best possible volunteers to be head coaches for our house teams. We begin with asking those that coached the prior season. Some coaches are anxious to return, while others for a variety of reasons elect not to return. Some coaches have their son or daughter make a travel team; or play high school hockey; or have their son/daughter move on to a different sport; or have to step back due to job related concerns; or simply cannot find the time. In some cases, the NYHA does not ask a coach to return based on the feedback of the parents from the prior season. Each season, the NYHA has to replace around half of its head coaches. The NYHA strives to find a team for every player who wishes to play house hockey. Toward that end, we often have to accept coaches who may not have had any head coach experience or who may not be proficient skaters. We feel that placing a head coach that will allow all the kids an opportunity to participate is a better solution than having to turn players away due to a lack of head coach candidates. Often times, the NYHA will have to lobby to get these individuals to be head coaches. Being a head coach carries a lot of responsibility and is a lot of work, which is one of the main reasons individuals are hesitant to want to head coach and quite frankly, the over ambitious expectations of some parents is one of the other significant reasons individuals do not want to head coach. This year, several individuals have come forward to head coach who are first time coaches or who did not play hockey at an advanced level. We encourage every parent who can skate to volunteer to assist the head coach on the ice. We also encourage every parent who can help with the off ice responsibilities to volunteer in any way they can. Every little bit helps the team. It is your team and not the head coach's team. It is your team and your opportunity to make it a great season. Be part of the solution. Without head coaches, we would have to tell your son/daughter that we have no room for them in the NYHA. Remember that head coaches, like all the members who run the NYHA, are volunteers and want to ensure a good experience for your son/daughter. **Volunteer in some capacity and before you criticize a head coach, ask yourself if you are working with him/her to make the team a good experience. Without head coaches, there are no teams in the NYHA. Thank you for volunteering, and for making this a fun and exciting experience for the kids.**

GET YOUR BLACK AND RED ON!!!

Spirit Wear Sales

Some of you may have already noticed that on Friday nights 6:00pm until 8:00pm and on Saturdays 10:00am until 2:00pm we are selling Novi Spirit Wear at the Novi Ice Arena. We will be honoring these hours through the Christmas holidays. We have a large selection of sweatshirts, hats, window decals, t shirts and jackets. Cash and major credit cards are accepted. Do visit us and see for yourself.



Bob DeSpirt - A True Friend, Mentor and Leader

How could anyone possibly describe Bob DeSpirt 's dedication and commitment to the NYHA? Although this article is specifically written in his honor, it could not possibly capture all of the positive things that Bob has done for the NYHA throughout his tenure at our Association. In order to do so, one would have to author an extremely lengthy novel. Starting in 2002, Bob took a very active role on the NYHA Board of Directors. He served as Treasurer for 2 years (2002-04), Secretary for 1 year (2006-07), and President for 8 years (2004-06 and 2007-2013). Bob has been the acting President of the Association since the 2007-08 season. During the first half of his involvement on the Board, Bob 's son, Matt, played hockey for the NYHA. Even after Matt left the NYHA in approximately 2007 to play for his high school, Bob continued to serve on the Board and remained dedicated to the kids and families in our Association. Bob has effectively managed the day-to-day operations of the Association.

He worked tirelessly to help all of the house and travel teams run a smooth and exciting season. His mission was always focused on enhancing a positive and fun atmosphere for the kids and families. He ran monthly board meetings and, occasionally, special meetings. Bob always created an organized monthly agenda with supporting documents and information, and then posted the minutes from those meetings on the NYHA website. He has created countless files for various topics and issues that arise during the course of a hockey season.

Bob is the epitome of organization. Year after year, Bob spent countless hours negotiating our ice contract with the rink. He worked extremely hard to reduce the number of hours during the month of August, reduce the number of 5pm and 6am starts throughout the season, reduce holiday weekend ice, increase weekday ice, and reduce the cost of ice. Bob is responsible for creating and implementing the high school hockey players mentoring program. He also worked to establish a relationship with PuckMasters in Wixom (for additional training for our players) and, in 2010-11, he helped to develop the dry land training facility at the rink. He also implemented a program where the NYHA house players would skate with the travel teams during specified practices, late in the season. Bob was instrumental in developing the Association 's Learn-to-Play Program, as well as the professional training program that our house teams utilize every year.

Bob was always focused on updating the Association bylaws and the coaches reference manual. He always wanted to be sure that coaches and managers had access to information so that issues or problems could be avoided (or, easily resolved). He worked to create and develop specific roles/responsibilities for each board member and committee chairperson so that future volunteers would have some basis with respect to their position on the Board. Bob developed and administered year-end surveys for the coaches and the Association, and he thoroughly reviewed those surveys to determine the strengths of the NYHA and how our Association could be improved. Bob has been involved in every aspect of the Association. From ice scheduling, to dues, to coach selections, to jerseys, to the house evaluations and draft, to travel tryouts, to referees, and soon. He always wanted to be sure that the Association - and the teams within the Association - were being efficiently managed and effectively operated. He was always driven to advance and enhance hockey development of the kids.

While he supported the travel program at the NYHA, Bob always opposed any change or issue that would negatively impact the house program. He wanted all of the players and teams to be treated equally. Bob regularly attended MAHA meetings, District 4 meetings, ADM meetings, and LCAHL meetings, and I-275 League meetings. You could always count on Bob to have the most up-to-date knowledge on hockey programming, rule changes, league policies, and developmental principles. Bob was always the "go-to guy" with any questions or situations relating to any aspect of the NYHA, or youth hockey in general. He was always available to help and he never hesitated to explain a policy, a procedure or an issue.

Bob has recently taken on a different role with another hockey association. His last date of service for the NYHA will be September 30, 2012. We certainly wish all of the best for Bob in his new endeavor. If you happen to see Bob at the rink in the next few weeks, I would strongly encourage you to stop him for a moment and extend a warm and heart-felt "thanks" for everything he has done for the NYHA. Since its inception in 1998, the NYHA has never known any other individual who has volunteered so much time and effort. Bob, you have been a true friend, mentor and leader to so many NYHA families, and the entire Association will sadly miss you.



Novi Game Day 2012!

**Mark your calendars! The 11th Annual NYHA Game Day is
Saturday, November 3rd**

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 rights 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.
- The famed 50-50 Puck Toss!
- 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 3rd!

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

Web sites To Bookmark

Novi Youth Hockey Association
www.noviyouthhockey.org

Little Caesars League
www.lcahl.pucksystem2.com

USA Hockey
www.usahockey.com

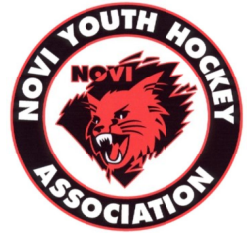
Michigan Amateur Hockey Association
www.maha.org

Arena Maps
www.arenamaps.com

Novi Ice Arena
www.noviicearena.com

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 \$10,000 in Credits from Kroger & Hillers Programs

153 different NYHA players earned a total of more than \$10,000 worth of credits toward their 2010 –2011 ice dues just by shopping at their neighborhood Kroger or Hillers store last year. The top NYHA player earned enough credits to cover 46% of their ice dues! How did they do it, you ask? They simply asked their family and friends that already shop at Kroger and Hillers to sign up through the NYHA to direct a portion of the dollars they spend in these stores back to the NYHA as part of the charitable giving programs generously offered by these two organizations. How much did you earn this past year? Check out the Kroger-Hillers link on the NYHA homepage at www.noviyouthhockey.org to learn more about these programs and start earning credits toward the 2012-13 hockey season now.

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 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 receives 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 any game (league, scrimmage, playoff, or tournament) is not acceptable. 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 link 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 requests that the **Minimum Garment Requirement be followed**: 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 include: 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 rostered 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 D4.

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 personal will ask those not following this policy to leave the ice. These are USA Hockey rules 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 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, refs, players, parents & 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. S.T.A.R. 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 your team meeting has already been held, send the link to your team to be watched at home. Please make sure each family has viewed it.

The NYHA 2012-2013 Team Line-Up

Mini Mite Division

Governor: Todd Martin

#	Head Coach	Team Name
1	Matt Handyside	Thundercats
2	Vincent Lorelli	Panthers
3	Jeff Ineich	Sabrecats

Mite Division

Governor: Todd Martin

#	Head Coach	Team Name
1	Phil McShane	Cougars
2	Paul Evans	Mountincats
3	John Liddle	Wildcats
4	Ethriam Brammer	Sabrecats
5	Kevin Riska	Thundercats

Squirt Division

Governor: Kevin Williams

#	Head Coach	Team Name
1	Jason Baldas	Cougars
2	Jim Assemany	Wildcats
3	Mark Hicks	Bobcats
4	Bret George	Predators

PeeWee Division

Governor: Dave Mueller

#	Head Coach	Team Name
1	Gary Smith	Pumas
2	Dan Deschamps	Tigers
3	Mark Pogoda	Wildcats
4	Tim Manning	Sabrecats
5	Kent Culp	Stray Cats
6	Tom Backaitis	Mighty Cats

Bantam Division

Governor: Joy Orlich

#	Head Coach	Team Name
1	Bret Holman	Alley Cats
2	John Arnold	Sabres
3	Mike Pohl	Panthers
4	Don Stockton	Wildcats

Midget Division

Governor: Greg Antilla

Head Coach	Team Name
BB Rob Massard	Predators
B-1 Brian Anton	Puma
B-2 Michael Megis	Panthers

NYHA TRAVEL

Team	Head Coach
U-14 Girls Snowcats	Aaron Kalmar
2005 Mite A IceCats	Matt Handyside
2004 Mite AA IceCats	Pete Woods
2003 Squirt A IceCats	Todd Martin
2002 Squirt AA IceCats	Mark Berke
2002 Squirt AA FireCats	Jeff Diegel
2001 PeeWee A IceCats	Paul VanAntwerp
2001 PeeWee A FireCats	Erik Stone
2000 PeeWee AA IceCats	Brian MacDonald
1999 Bantam A IceCats	Harry Youmans
1998 Bantam AA IceCats	Jeff Stempin

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 bench and the ice (including practices). 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.

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 2012-2013 Board of Directors

The NYHA Board consists of the following elected volunteers:

Mark Berke	Stacey Cerroni
(Interim President)	Phil Coleman
Todd Martin	Michelle Demshuk
(Vice President)	Vince Lorelli
Greg Antilla	Joy Orlich
(Executive Treasurer)	Kevin Williams
Todd Pado	TBA
(Associate Treasurer)	TBA

**We Need Volunteers
for two vacant positions
on the Novi Youth Hockey
Association's Board of Directors.
This is a 1 Year commitment that expires in
March 2013
If interested please contact:
info@noviyouthhockey.org**

October and November 2012 Ice Schedules

The NYHA negotiates its ice buy contract with the Novi Ice Arena. 'Negotiates' may be the wrong word, since the Association has minimal 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 its own programming (Learn To Skate, Figure Skating Club, Adult Leagues, Drop in Hockey, Open Skating, Skate Jam, etc.). As a result of the calendar (days per month, number of weekdays and weekends per month, and where the holidays fall: weekday or weekend) and all customer buys, the number of hours available to the Association each month is not constant over the length of the contract. And as you all have heard in order for the Association to have ice in November and December, it must sign a contract from August through March. On average, the Association has 362 hours of ice per month to distribute to its teams. This distribution is done based on the number of hours paid for by each team in their dues and 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 (the Association has 54.7% of its ice on Saturdays and Sundays) and of course so everyone has a fair share of the famous 6:am practice (which the Association is also contractually obligated to buy). The frequency of a team's rotation is based on the amount of money that team pays for ice in its dues. November is the lowest buy month for the Association with around 307 hours. November ice is limited to the Association due to Game Day (Nov 3), the Metro High School Invitational Tournament run by the rink (Novi 16, 17; the Association has no ice on Friday and only half its allotment on Saturday), The Manon Rheame Tournament (Nov 8-11; the Association has 25% of its Thursday night allotment 75% of Friday night, 0 hours on Saturday; and 30% of its allotment on Sunday), the beginning of the high school hockey season for both Novi and Northville high schools (games run from November to early February; with about 15 hours in November) and the Thanksgiving weekend. The Association has considered moving Game Day to October to provide additional ice to teams, but at this time has not opted to make the move. Additionally, in October, the rink has elected to host a AAA tournament, over the objection of the NYHA, during the weekend of Oct 19-21 (the Association has 0 hours on Friday, 0 hours on Saturday, and 50% on Sunday) and a figure skating competition on Oct 27 (the NYHA has 25% of the normal allotment). The Association has repeatedly requested that the rink move the Manon Rheame Tournament to the Thanksgiving weekend and this has not been accepted. The Association has no control over the high school hockey season and its allocations of ice. In December, high school hockey continues. Every hour of ice that the Association has purchased, or for that matter that it could contractually buy in October and November has been allocated. Unfortunately, there is just not enough ice to keep teams skating at the same frequency as they did in September, which happens to have the highest number of available ice hours (412 hours). Both house and travel teams are impacted equally commiserate with their ice allocations. Further worsening the allocation is a decision by the rink to run its Skate Jam on Saturday nights.

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

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 begins September 11 and ends on December 18, for a total of 15 skates. The second session begins January 8 and ends on March 26 for a total of 12 weeks. You are able to join the first session "in process." **10% Discount if you enroll for Sessions 1 and 2 today!** Contact the office to enroll! Visit our website at www.noviyouthhockey.org for more information and to register.

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

Team Meetings: All NYHA coaches are required to hold a team meeting with parents and players (optional) 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 at any time during the season.

Schedule Overview: NYHA travel teams begin their season in August and house teams in late August and runs through 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.

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 2004-2007 Birth Years

These age groups compete in the I-275 League, which consists of teams from Novi, Livonia, Plymouth, Canton, Farmington Hills, 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 3-on-3 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 full-ice or cross-ice games. Scores are kept, but no standings are compiled.

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, Plymouth, and other local associations.

Travel

All travel teams play in the LCAHL. Additional information about the LCAHL is available at: 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 boxes, 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 6:00 am and 5:00 pm practices and the rotating ice schedule.

Washing Instructions for Polyester Jerseys



Turn jersey inside-out

Wash: Warm or Cold Water
DO NOT WASH HOT

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

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