



Meet The Board

Featured Board Member:

Jorge Murillo
Director of Hockey Operations



Meet Jorge Murillo. Some of you may recognize him as the coach with the red helmet. While new to the role of Director of Hockey Operations this year, he is not new to the Blackhawks. One of our longer tenured coaches, Jorge has been a Blackhawk since his playing days.

Q: What about being the Blackhawks DHO excites you?

A: The part that excites me the most about becoming the new Director of Hockey Operations (DHO) is that I have been given a first-hand opportunity to help grow this great Club. I have been lucky to be a part of the Blackhawks for a number of years as a coach and more recently as the Assistant DHO - I look forward to contributing in a bigger way for the foreseeable future. Being a member of the Blackhawks has opened the door to many friendships that now go beyond hockey.

Q: Tell us about your playing days. Any favorite coaches or memorable moments or seasons as a player?

A: Starting my hockey "career" relatively late as a Bantam Minor at 13, the Blackhawks were my first and only youth Club. Looking back, I can say my most memorable years came as a Midget when John McNulty helped greatly shape my hockey landscape. My last year playing youth hockey, I remember having a strong, close-knit team who challenged other teams throughout the year and at every tournament we participated in. Although falling short at States, I look back at the times both at and away from the rink as memories I will cherish forever.

Q: So post-playing days, how did you get involved in the Blackhawks?

A: Following my playing days as a youth, I stayed involved with hockey both as an adult player as well as a USA Hockey Official. One night, working with fellow Blackhawks Coach Steve Gutierrez, he asked if I had ever considered coaching. After a brief conversation, and a night or two to think about it, I decided to join Coach Steve as an Assistant. This decision would amount to the start of what I hope to be a long and fulfilling coaching career.

Meet the Board, continued

Q: How does your officiating complement your involvement with the Blackhawks?

A: As a USA Hockey Official, I am better able to understand the "other side" of hockey in a game setting. Being an Official has helped me as a Coach in that I can better teach skills and tactics, most notably through rule explanation and demonstration. Further, being an Official adds a bit of credibility to in-game discipline and expectations. As an Official, I have done levels as high as College (linesman) and 18AAA (referee and linesman), as well as everything underneath.

Q: What do you think makes the Blackhawks different from other clubs?

A: What I truly believe makes the Blackhawks different from other clubs is the focus on skill development, first and foremost. Be it the ritual-like time spent on skating or the meticulous concentration on puck handling skills, it is this foundation building that allows our players to develop and grow to the next level. The Blackhawks may not be the biggest club, nor the flashiest, but our coaches and our players speak for themselves in terms of what youth hockey, and youth sports, is really about. Ultimately, the Blackhawks "culture" is one of working hard and having fun doing it.

One Timers

-  Team volunteers needed! As the season ramps up, now is the time to get involved with your team. Learn how to **run the clock** or **fill out a score sheet**. Home teams are required to provide volunteers for both functions during games – don't leave your Team Manger hanging! Want something a little less intimidating? Approach your team manager and volunteer to be a **penalty box monitor**...
-  Want to see **game stats in real time**? Most Norcal games are available on Time To Score: <http://stats.caha.timetoscore.com/display-schedule?league=3> ...
-  Our club Secretary has been posting game results and pictures on our web site! Check out <http://www.blackhawks.org/news> ...
-  **Practice Ice Slots** don't typically become "fixed" until later in the season. Our ice scheduler does his best to keep things consistent, but don't be surprised if there are variations in a teams practice schedule!

Skate-At-The-Lake

The Blackhawks season kicked off with its traditional Skate-at-the-Lake Training Camp and Retreat over Labor Day Weekend in South Lake Tahoe, and it did not disappoint! All ten Blackhawks teams, from Mites to Midgets, participated in the Weekend. Itineraries included ice practices, dryland workouts, video review, classroom sessions, parent meetings, team building, and beach BBQs. Other activities included the Bantam B team going on a team hike, paddle boarding and cooking dinner for their parents and siblings. The Mites had a sandcastle building contest and three-legged race on the beach! The Bantam AA Coach Jorge worked in an impromptu scavenger hunt that had the boys working as a team, bonding, laughing and running hard. Great way for families to reconnect at the start of the hockey season, and to welcome new families to club. When asked what the players enjoyed the most about the weekend, the Bantam AA team manager says her players repeated "BBQ at the beach, practices, team bonding" over and over again. The Blackhawks tradition continues to be a great way to start the season!

