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Subject: Ice Dogs 8U 2019-20 Season Intro

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To: Tim Froemke tm.frmk@gmail.com, Chris Battles (NoVA Hockey Scheduler) novascheduler@gmail.com

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8U Parents:

Thank you all for a great 2018-2019 season! Whether your child played in Fall, Spring, or both, we hope that they had a great experience and, more importantly, a lot of fun. As we move towards the Fall/Winter 2019-2020 season we wanted to bring you up to speed on a few things.

First, my name is Blake Harrington and I will be taking over as the 8U Age Rep for Aimee Spencer. Aimee has done a fantastic job during her time in the role and I certainly have some big shoes to fill. As part of the transition, we are in the process of redefining the roles of all the 8U volunteers to ensure easier execution in the future. Myself, Tim, Chris, and other volunteers will be working together to continue building on the foundation that David and Aimee created.

Second, this Spring season Tim Froemke took over for David Hyde as the 8U Program Director. This was the first season since 2017 that we didn't have David's presence and guidance and I think Tim and the coaches did a masterful job of carrying forward all the improvements and innovations he brought to the program while also continuing to build upon them.

Third, this spring the Board created a new role, Growth Director, and Chris Battles will be filling that role. One of Chris' main responsibilities is to oversee the LTP and 8U programs. Chris has a bevy of experience at all levels and facets of youth hockey and will be a tremendous resource for us as we continue to refine and grow the 8U program.

As you've probably seen by now, registration for returning players will open tomorrow (Friday, May 24th) at 9:00am. Please be sure to renew your USA Hockey membership and get a new number for the upcoming season (links below) prior to registering. We've been working hard behind the scenes to get ready for next season and we wanted to make sure you knew what we are currently planning. The big execution items will not change: all 8U players will play 8U house and we will field at least two (and possibly three) travel teams. Within the House program, there will again be two divisions: a Metropolitan division playing half-ice games and an Atlantic division playing cross-ice games. The first few weeks, we will be divided by last name for training camp and evaluations. 8U Travel tryouts will be in mid-September for the travel teams and we will also hold supplement travel preparation practices (likely on Monday nights) for players interested in getting more ice time and preparation prior to the tryouts. Sign up for these preparation sessions will be conducted after sign up for the season is complete.

While we are never sure how many players will register, we are planning to expand the size of the house program from last year. We will set 108 as our upper limit for registration with the expectation that we will field 6 Atlantic teams of 10 players each (60 players total) and 4 Metro teams of 12 players each (48 players). Saturday mornings the divisions will practice separately and we will alternate which division gets the earlier ice time week-to-week. The Sunday morning practices will again alternate between an early morning practice for one division and games afterward for the other division. We will again host 8U and 6U House jamborees as well as coordinate for our house players to volunteer and participate on teams that travel to other house jamborees in the local area.

We will continue our goalie training program for both divisions, encompassing Wolfe Hockey trainers as well as our own internal trainers. Tim will be stepping back from full management of this program, but we have two new volunteers that will be stepping in: Sean Lynch for Metro and Rick Dibella for Atlantic.

While the specific number of teams we will field for 8U travel will depend on the number of players who try out, we currently plan to field one Lower A team of 10-11 players and one B team of 10-11 players. If we have enough interest from both coaches and players, we may field a second B team as well. The 8U travel teams will have 1-2 additional practices per week that are TBD based on available Club ice. More info to come with our 8U travel tryout announcement and registration in early August. These teams will participate in exhibition games with other teams in the local area, numerous CBHL-sponsored jamborees within the area, and 1-3 separate tournaments (depending on parent interest once the teams are selected). We encourage all players who skated with the black and green tape groups to try out for travel if their families can manage the additional time commitment.

Finally, please register your players during the "returning players only" window that opens tomorrow and remember to renew your USA Hockey number.

USAH Registration: https://www.usahockeyregistration.com/login_input.action

NOVA Ice Dogs Registration: https://nvhc.demosphere-secure.com/_registration

For additional information on the House or Travel program please follow the links below.

8U House link: <https://www.nova-icedogs.org/page/show/1975560-nova-8u-house-program>

8U Travel link: <https://www.nova-icedogs.org/page/show/1975592-nova-8u-travel-program>

If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know. otherwise I look forward to seeing everyone bright and early

for the Fall/Winter season!

Thanks!
-Blake Harrington