**Are you opposed to a name change for EJYH**

Yes **23%**

No **57%**

No Preference **20%**

**What name would you suggest?**

* Enforcers **15%**
* Elmira Youth Hockey **23%**
  + Eagles, Emperors, Penguins, Explorers, Eclipse, Eskimos
* Twin Tiers **13%**
  + Talons, Tornadoes, Tigers, Thunder, Thunderbolts, Twisters, Tides, Torches, Trailblazers, Rivermen
* Storm **5%**
* Let Johnnie Beecher Name it **2%**
* Not the Enforcers. **8%**
* Keep it the same **2%**
* N/A **32%**

**Are you opposed to a color change for EJYH?**

Yes **26%**

No **56%**

No Preference **17%**

**What colors would you suggest?**

* Green/Black/White **30%**
  + Black/white/Green to align with current professional house team colors. If black and white are main colors, if house team changes, can easily change the accent color
  + Alignment with local team
* Black/Gray **2%**
* Blue/Silver/White **2%**
* Black **2%**
* Purple/Gold **2%**
* Johnny Beecher Colors **2%**
* Not Enforcer Colors **8%**
* Should NOT change **4%**
* No preference **8%**
* N/A **40%**

**Are there specific programs you would like to see EJYH offer? (31 responses)**

* Goalie Work **7%**
* Skills Clinics/Camps **27%**

Power Skating, Positional Play, checking, skills, drills

* Off Season Programs **17%**
* Off Ice Programs **7%**
* Team Specific **17%**
* Scholarship/Financial Aid **7%**
* N/A **18%**

**Do you attend Board Meetings? (46 responses)**

Yes **15%**

No **85%**

EJYH Board of Directors is a panel made up of 11 members. Directors serve a 3-yr term and are voted in by their peers. Open positions or positions up for election are posted on the Elmira Hockey website at least 30-Days prior to election. The only pre-requisite to run for an open position is a letter of intent prior to the Board Meeting.

Board Meetings are held monthly and are open to the public. There is no invite required to attend. Dates, times and locations are posted on the Elmira Hockey website at [www.elmirahockey.com](http://www.elmirahockey.com)

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, Board meetings have been held virtually. We are exploring the possibility of making this standard so that there is an opportunity for more people to join.

**Do you read the Board Minutes?**

Yes **56%**

No **44%**

Meeting minutes are posted on the Elmira Hockey website before the next regularly scheduled meeting. Go to [www.elmirahockey.com](http://www.elmirahockey.com) Connect Our Board Meeting Minutes

All members are encouraged to read the board minutes each month to keep abreast of discussions, events and happenings.

**Your questions and comments answered**

How do I understand efforts underway and where I may be able to contribute?

The Board keeps minutes of meeting, which outline topics of discussion and any efforts that we are either looking at or would like to pursue. Meeting minutes are posted to the league website every month.

Our league runs on Volunteers. Opportunities are always available to contribute on or off ice directly supporting a team, or with the board and committees supporting the league in general. If you have an idea or are interested in volunteering, please reach out to me directly at elmirayouthhockey.com and let me know your thoughts or interests.

Improve the website

If you have experience in web design, or are interested in helping to improve / manage the website, please reach out to me directly at [elmirayouthockey@gmail.com](mailto:elmirayouthockey@gmail.com)

Maybe try a record meetings (or Facebook live) and then post, so those who are not available can listen in, as sometimes discussion details are not clear in minutes.

Currently, we are using Microsoft Teams as a way to conduct meeting virtually. This has been well received and may continue in the future. A record of each meeting is kept using minutes of meeting, which are published in the Board section of the website.

Communication with parents from the board more fundraisers

It is the intent of EJYH to communicate all fundraisers on the homepage of the website, and through team managers.

Better communication with parents via email. Seems I have to double and triple send them before I get a response

League emails are sent to contact information that is supplied when registering your child. The website also allows for a text message to be sent informing you that an email announcement is made. Please check your league profile to make sure your email and telephone contact information is correct. During the season, many teams will utilize SportsEngine, email, text message (or a combination of each) to communicate. After team selection is completed, your team manager and/or coach will provide details on how information will be communicated.

Full disclosure - ie post coaches for next season ahead of time, before people register

Coaches will be posted on the website prior to the opening of Registration.

Ensure coaches are able to effectively coach the kids at whatever level they are coaching

USA Hockey establishes training guidelines for anyone who wishes to coach or be an on ice volunteer for every affiliated hockey organization. This a certification process, which includes online and classroom training, lab/practical style training, and background checks, prior to being allowed on the ice.

USA Hockey provides access to training methodologies on their website which follow the American Development Model (ADM). EJYH encourages our coaches to formulate practice plans and game play using these tools, so that players can have the most effective hockey experience at their skill level. In the upcoming season, this will be more closely monitored.

Implement a team manager training so that all are working under the same assumptions- possibly have monthly manager meetings to share best practices-challenges-helpful tips-etc, cut program costs or improve fund raising where possible.

It is the intent if EJYH to improve manager training with monthly meetings and better reporting.

Teams are not decided until after practices start, but maybe team tryouts should be earlier to decide on teams, so managers and coaches could be in place sooner, rather than last minute scramble before Snowbelt scheduling.

There are two team types in our league: Travel and House. The league declares an overall skill level of the players, which must be approved by the New York State Amateur Hockey Association (NYSAHA) – these designations are Tier I, Tier II and Tier III. Our house teams (10U/Squirt, and above) belong to the Snowbelt Hockey League.

Travel teams can require a commitment from a player. Tryouts are typically held in the spring, 1-5 weeks after the conclusion of the NYSAHA State or National Tournament. USA Hockey guidelines establish when tryouts for each Tier designation can be held.

All other teams (House) are formed once registration is open; the number of registrants (per age group) dictates the number and skill level of EJYH teams each year. Within each age group, teams are primarily grouped by skill level; however, there may be times when positions may play a part (ie: goalie needed). The skill level of the team is evaluated by the team coach(es) with guidance from the EJYH Head of Coaches. Snowbelt categorizes skill level by Red/White/Blue, and predetermines default team skill levels based on organizational details like past performances, availability of travel teams at that age level within the home organization, etc. Snowbelt requires all Teams must be declared prior to scheduling so there is no conflict. Snowbelt will allow organizations to petition and change the declared skill level of each team (i.e. a predetermined red level team is granted permission to play at a white level for that season). Each petition is reviewed and voted on by the Snowbelt board of directors. Snowbelt board review and final decisions on teams take place at the October meeting.

The EJYH Director of Affiliates can provide guidance on Snowbelt bi-laws and policies.

Equal play time

Travel Teams players are not guaranteed equal play. Likewise, in tournaments, though encouraged, equal play time is not enforced.

In the Snowbelt League, equal play time is reasonably mandatory. Snowbelt guidelines call for a player to play as much of a game as the other players on their team, but the play time policy also considers that there are circumstances when this is not always possible. For example, team structure with different defensive and offensive lines, accounting for Power Plays and Penalty kills (special teams), Line changes, etc.

If you have a question about playtime, please reach out to your team’s head coach, first. The EJYH Head of Coaches can also provide general guidance on playing time. The EJYH Director of Affiliates can provide guidance on Snowbelt bi-laws and policies.

More games full rink

8U (Mites) and 6U (mini-mites) are the only age groups that do not play full ice. This is a USA Hockey requirement.

One hour of full ice per team once a mouth

EJYH tries their very best to maximize individual teams practice times. Ice costs and number of registrants dictate our budget and ability to meet this request.

Team specific stick times where they can scrimmage with each other on days off, voluntary basis.

Each team has designated practice times. First Arena also offers open time where teams are free to jointly attend (such as Sticktime) if they desire. Talk to your head coach or team manager if this is something you are interested in.

All levels including house program to bring all skill levels

EJYH participates in the Snowbelt League, which is comprised of House League level teams in the NYSAHA Central Section. Unlike regions like Rochester, Buffalo, and Syracuse, there are not enough kids to make a true “House League”

Learn to skate age 3-4, before mini mites.

Mini Mites starts at age 3 (Child Age). Children are grouped according to their skill, not age

Travel for the 12u level. We may be forced to play elsewhere as the Snowbelt division no longer fits our play level.

Each year, EJYH looks at the talent pool of the players at each age level and decides if a travel team can be hosted.

The Snowbelt League is a highly competitive League comprised of organizations from the Central section in NY. Divisions are Red/White/Blue, with the Red designation at or near Travel caliber. In fact, at Tier III, Travel teams may request to join Snowbelt and compete at the Red Level.

The level of play for both Travel and Snowbelt are based on the team talent. The main difference between “Travel” and “Snowbelt” is the Championship at the end; “Travel” plays towards a State or National title and Snowbelt plays towards the John Abbot Memorial Tournament (JAM). While travel teams are not guaranteed to qualify for a State/National Tournament, each Snowbelt team is placed at a JAM tournament every season. The JAM tournament selections are based on performance during the season (i.e. the first-place White division team, may play the last place red division team, etc.), with the idea to ensure highly competitive games.

Competition at JAM is fierce, and the talent is vast. Many of our teams have won JAM in the past; the most recent being the 10U/Squirt (red) and 12U/Peewee teams at their respective JAM tournaments, in the 2019-20 season.

Dryland sessions

Dryland is encouraged by USA Hockey, ADM, and EJYH. Dryland is scheduled by the Coach of each team.

Plan major events ahead (Mite Mania & February Freeze)

Both home Tournaments (and other events) are scheduled well in advance and posted on the website. Event heads are appointed at or before the beginning of each season to start the planning process. Event heads will form committees of board members and parents to perform work and hold these events. Our ability to host an event is based on outside organizations committing to attend. If you are interested in helping with an event, please attend a board meeting, or reach out to me directly at [elmirayouthockey@gmail.com](mailto:elmirayouthockey@gmail.com)

Skills Clinics/Camps

EJYH would love to offer skills sessions, camps and clinics all season round, but we are entirely dependent on ice cost, ice availability, and certified volunteers to run them.

Offseason Hockey

Off season hockey is a topic that we will be looking more closely at in the upcoming months. This may include league events, team bonding, or community events. Feel free to offer suggestions at a board meeting, or send them to me directly at [elmirayouthockey@gmail.com](mailto:elmirayouthockey@gmail.com).

Off Ice Fan Gear Options

Currently EJYH uses Squad Locker, which can be accessed from the homepage of the website. Items are paid for and shipped direct through Squad Locker. Please feel free to make suggestions on clothing types if they are not offered, we will do our best to get what you are looking for.

Teams that do Fan Gear Fundraisers will be posted on the homepage of the website.

Develop actions and carry through on poor behavior of parents and players

Discipline is a sensitive topic, and continues to be scrutinized more and more. This is also true for the parent organizations we belong to – Snowbelt, NYSAHA, and USA Hockey. Starting in the 2020-21 season, parents will be required to attend a meeting outlining expectations and repercussions prior to their player taking the ice. Players will have a similar meeting from their coaches. Attendance at these meetings will be monitored and reported. Signed acknowledgement of the Code of Conduct will be required.

Allow companies to sponsor teams and put their logos on Jersey’s.

This has been done in the past and is something we are starting to build on through the Fundraising Committee. If you have thoughts or ideas, please reach out to the Fundraising Coordinator, or directly to me at [elmirayouthhockey@gmail.com](mailto:elmirayouthhockey@gmail.com)

Financial aid for low income families that would like to play

Sponsorships and donations are needed to make this program work. We have a dedicated group looking into this. If you are interested in helping, please reach out to me directly at [elmirayouthhockey@gmail.com](mailto:elmirayouthhockey@gmail.com)

Equipment swaps before each season

Equipment swaps have been hosted for the past two seasons. This is a great way to unload some old equipment or pick up some gently used stuff. Details are posted on the Elmira hockey home page when an Equipment Swap is scheduled.

Skate a thon

Skate a Thon has been in full swing for the past two years. This is a great opportunity for your player to earn money towards registration fees. Details are posted on the Elmira hockey home page when the Skate-a-Thon is scheduled.

Mini mites get actual jerseys with their names on them.

In the past, Mini Mites received an Elmira Jersey when they signed up for the 8-wk program and was included in the cost. The fee was reduced and the jersey was removed. We can discuss this for future seasons.

Mini mites get to show their talents at a game like the older kids get to do

Each year, minis are invited to participate in the Cortland Fire and Ice Tournament; EJYH has attended when enough mini mites to form a team sign up. There are additional opportunities for mini mites to showcase their talents available as well. If you are interested in your player attending these, please reach out to the mini-mite coach, or to me directly at [elmirayouthockey@gmail.com](mailto:elmirayouthockey@gmail.com)

First Arena Building

EJYH is a customer of First Arena. We do not have any exclusivity to the building, the rinks, the locker rooms, the seating situation or anything else within the grounds. Ice cost and rink usage is determined by the owner of the building.

Also, EJYH is not responsible for up keep on the building or the grounds, including bathrooms, lighting, heat or parking. If you have an issue, please contact Southern Tier Economic Growth.

Partner with the Arena

Over the years, EJYH has been in talks with the management of the arena, in the past, the Jackals, and currently, the Enforcers. Decisions are made in the best interest of the league.

To date, EJYH is still looking for the right opportunity to form a partnership.

Combine with Corning

Over the years, EJYH has had several talks with Corning in regards to combining our programs. In fact, two years ago, a trial program was attempted to merge our two programs, which did not succeed. Since then, we have not yet been able to come to a reasonable agreement which mutually benefits both organizations.

Work on funding for our own facility. More ways to make it cheaper

The board frequently discusses ways to keep EJYH reasonably competitive with other area organization. We would love to hear your suggestions!