



Whitestown Youth Hockey Association

# The Neutral Zone

Fall 2021

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Whitestown Youth Hockey Association's mission is to foster an environment in which everyone works together to provide a hockey program that facilitates life and hockey skills.

## THANK YOU to Our Volunteers!!

The Board of Directors wants to thank all the coaches and volunteers who have come back for the '21-'22 hockey season. We are deeply appreciative of the men and women, fathers, mothers, grandparents, aunts, uncles and siblings who volunteer their time. For one game to be played, it takes an average of 8 volunteers. We recognize the time, money and energy that our volunteers contribute. Without you, our season wouldn't be possible. Thank you!

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## COVID Safety

The safety of our players, coaches and families is important to us. With guidance from USA Hockey, the Oneida County Health Department, and along with building regulations, we ask that all unvaccinated individuals please mask up. We are asking this in order to keep our season going and players skating.

If your child isn't feeling well, please keep them home. If your child has been quarantined due to an exposure or symptoms, please keep them home. The best we can do is keep our players and coaches safe and healthy during this time. We appreciate everyone's support!

Please contact Jeremy Nash (ACE/SafeSport Coordinator) at [garr4711@gmail.com](mailto:garr4711@gmail.com) if your child has tested positive or you have any COVID related questions.

# OCHC

What is OCHC? Great question! Oneida County Hockey Club is a newly named offshoot created to provide competitive and affordable opportunities for players in our area regardless of what association they have played for in the past.

We've all seen it, heard it, or lived it - not enough players at a certain level to create equally competitive teams at area associations. Teams are selected based on whoever registers and we all hope for the best. The talent on one team can range from a returning tier I player to a player who is lacing up their skates for the first time. Try as they might, this is a difficult situation to step into as a coach, player and parent. Always with the best of intentions, frustrations rear their ugly head and at the end of the season the difficult phone call is made. Coaches share concerns and parents try to tiptoe around the decision they have made to "look elsewhere" next season.

This season, both Whitestown and New Hartford decided to put years of locker room conversations in motion and see what could come about if we worked together. We introduce you to OCHC! The 12U level at both associations merged and we have proudly created a state bound tier III team and a SnowBelt white level team. Our 14U level also welcomed several players from New Hartford as they were unable to field a team at that level. It happened fast, but it happened with a much bigger picture in mind.

Our goal - to provide competitive and affordable hockey for players in our area without having to join a tier I hockey association. We encourage tier I players to push themselves and experience a tier I team, but we all know that it's not for everyone. Year after year, local associations are seeing an increase in costs, decrease in players and a decrease in talent. We are working together to be proactive in order to save the youth hockey experience in our area. We are excited to expand this program at other levels next season!

Questions - please feel free to contact Whitestown Youth Hockey President Lindsey Rosenfeld ([wyhainfo@gmail.com](mailto:wyhainfo@gmail.com)) or New Hartford Youth Hockey President Chris Moran ([blueshirt@roadrunner.com](mailto:blueshirt@roadrunner.com))



## News and Upcoming Events

Each team this year has taken the initiative to begin several fundraisers to support tournaments or other costs associated with their team. Teams are participating in everything from selling Utica Coffee to poinsettias. Please visit our website for details on ways that you can support individual teams within our association.

LTS - Thank you to the 14U players who have been helping with LTS! There are over 50 registered learn to skate players, so the help has been greatly appreciated.

8U - The mites would like to thank Utica First Insurance for their sponsorship!

10U - The 10U team would like to thank everyone who participated in the Chipotle fundraiser. They are proud to announce a Gold Level sponsorship from Chevrolet and a Bronze Level sponsorship from Dr. William Graber, MD, PC-Weight Loss Surgery.

12U - Thank you to Mastrovito Hyundai for sponsoring both travel and house teams! This VERY generous Gold Level sponsorship was able to offset the cost of new jerseys, shells and socks for each player at this level. A big thank you to Dunkin Donuts for their Silver Level Sponsorship and continued support each season!

14U - WYHA is pleased to support three bantam teams this season. Thank you to One Paw At A Time for their annual sponsorship.

## Sponsorships

The Whitestown Youth Hockey Association is always looking for ways to help our families offset the cost of hockey. Anyone can sponsor the association or a specific team. We offer three levels of sponsorships with many generous benefits to businesses who support a team. Simply complete our sponsorship form and return it to Kelly Nash at [knashwyha@gmail.com](mailto:knashwyha@gmail.com)

[Click to learn more](#)

Want to submit something for the next newsletter? Please email your ideas or information to [WYHAinfo@gmail.com](mailto:WYHAinfo@gmail.com)



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