

Greetings Hockey Families.

I hope that you are having a great summer so far! Even though it's summer I hope that you are all looking forward to the next hockey season as much as the board and myself are. We have been working hard over the last couple of months on a plan to help further develop our hockey players and teams with the limited amount of ice and ice time that we have available.

The first thing we did was help put some additional summer training in place with our league level goalies. Many of our goalies are attending Stauber's Goal Grease for personalized one on one trainings this summer and they have also registered for additional camp opportunities. For our WHA skaters, we are working out a plan with the City of Brookings to rent ice at their facility two days a week from the end of September through the beginning of October before our ice is ready. Our plans are to do power skating sessions for the first couple of weeks and then to get into some skills and drills sessions once our players have found their legs again after a long off season. More details will be available on this hopefully within the next month as we are awaiting status of the Brookings Blizzard schedule and also an update on their rink which is needing a couple repairs.

WHA will also be hosting a camp here in Watertown for all of our players October 26-28. We have a couple of gentlemen from Superior, Wisconsin who will be coming to lead this camp for us and work with our players on skating, skills, drills and goaltending. We are really excited about this opportunity and all of our age levels will be able to participate.

There are a few other things that we have in the works including a Girls Day at WHA. We are working on a "Try Hockey for Free" day with all girls to increase our numbers for the season. We have set a goal of fielding a GV, GJV and U14 team so we are needing to recruit a handful of girls to be able to achieve this. We are working on an afternoon of fun that we are hoping includes a "celebrity" guest speaker and on ice coach.

As you can see, we are working hard this hockey season on providing opportunities for player development. We are also going to be working this season to further develop our coaches through additional trainings and resources. WHA is in the process of hiring a Chief of Hockey Operations to help implement a long term vision and objectives for WHA player development. This position will help ensure our mission is being carried out through the entire hockey program. Our plan is to have this position filled within the next two weeks.

One of the most exciting announcements that I have is that we are bringing the Proactive Coaching seminar, Coaches and Captains, to town for all of our league level players. This will be a mandatory training for them on November 3rd from 1-4pm so please mark this down on your calendars. This event will also be followed by a parent seminar which will be mandatory for all families. WHA is encouraging BOTH parents to attend but is only requiring that at least one attends. This is a one hour seminar and WELL worth everyone's time. It will be held from 5-6pm. More details will be available when it gets closer to the event date.

To make all of these things happen, there is obviously a great cost involved. WHA has put in place a summer "Development Fundraiser" to help defray the cost of these additional items. We will be raffling off a 2018 Can-AM 450 4-wheeler with an 8 Foot Beartrack Aluminum trailer. WHA is asking EACH player to sell just 5 tickets at \$20 each and they will be able to attend all applicable programs at NO charge. Ticket sales will start next week and run through August 14th which is our registration date. Players can turn in their registration paperwork and raffle

tickets that evening from 6-7:30pm at the Fieldhouse. More detailed information about registration will be coming soon.

These special fundraiser tickets will be available for pick up on the following dates:

Sunday June 24th 7:30-8:30pm Fieldhouse

Tuesday June 26th 8:30-10am Watertown Radio Parking Lot (We will have the 4-wheeler at the radio station doing a live broadcast and selling tickets!)

Thursday June 28th 6-9pm at Thursday Night Live (WHA will be catering the TNL meal with all proceeds to WHA, tell your friends and family to come out!)

\*\*A check for \$100 per player will be collected at the time that they check out their tickets.

These checks will not be cashed until 8/31/18 which is the day the raffle drawing will be held.

Please make your check payable to WHA.

WHA is committed to our players and our coaches and we are very excited about this next step we are taking in our program development. We are looking forward to the upcoming season and we are thankful for all of the amazing hockey families in our association. Without you none of this would be possible.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact myself or any of our WHA board members.

Thank you for your support,

Eric Skott  
WHA President