



***THE WILDCAT WRAP AROUND
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WELCOME TO THE SEASON

Welcome to the beginning of Wildcat Hockey Season 2019-2020! Many people have been hard at work making sure that this year will be the best one yet.

Tryouts are completed for Squirts, PeeWees and Bantams. We all owe a huge thank you to the tryout committee, coaches, and volunteers.

Ice evaluation times started on September 8th and continued through September 16th. There were hundreds of hours put in before, during and after those dates by countless people. They aimed to make the experience a positive, productive one for each skater.

Wildcat Hockey runs on the shoulders of these volunteers who are willing to put in that time away from their families, jobs and lives. If you see one, say THANK YOU! They deserve it.

Volunteers were also hard at work long before tryouts began. The Wildcat Golf Outing Fundraiser is one such example.

This year's Wildcat Golf outing fundraiser was a huge success! A special thank you to Mark & Heidi Schlappi for their time and effort in organizing the event. Because of the Schlappi family, our sponsors, member donations, golfers, and member volunteers we were able to net approximately \$15,000 from the event. Amazing! A significant portion of the proceeds will be used for a glass case to showcase team photos in the rink. Funds were also used for a trophy shelf and for starting future shooting gallery fund. A report on the exact allocation of funds will be available once financials are finalized.

Mark and Heidi Schlappi have provided their leadership for this annual event for since 2016-2017. We are looking for a pair of people to lead the organizing of next year's event. If you are interested please email fundraising@wildcathockey.org.

WILDCATS BY THE NUMBERS

Wildcat Hockey continues to lead the state with participants. The continued growth of our hockey community is a testament to the work and talent available by our volunteers and skaters. In the 2019-2020 season so far, our approximate numbers are as follows:

300 skaters
225 families

22 teams
70 coaches
50 designated volunteers

Other notable numbers at the Ice Pond include
6 High School teams including approximately 95 skaters
Numerous adult leagues
Village Center skating lessons every week

All of these numbers combine to mean that Ice Pond time is at a premium and valuable. Please look at your skater's schedule from a season's perspective and not week to week or month to month. Despite the growth of hockey in our communities, the Wildcats have continued to provide similar ice times from year to year at all age and ability levels.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE SEASON

The following is a synopsis of what to expect from the season for all Squirt, PeeWee and Bantam skaters.

Power Skating through November

What is power skating?

Becoming a strong skater is a critical part of ensuring players' overall success in hockey. Being a great skater includes establishing proper stride mechanics and correct posture. These are directly linked with power, speed and efficiency on the ice.

Power skating teaches edge movement so that motion on the ice becomes instinctual. Learning appropriate body position is important for balanced skills when handling the puck. These things combined translate to added agility and natural skating abilities that are key to great game performance especially in tight, small spaces.

Wildcat Hockey is fortunate to have a dedicated power skating coach in Amy Claggett. She is a University of Maine hockey alumna who lives in Waunakee. She is a wife and hockey mom to three, an avid sports enthusiast, and an incredible asset to our skaters. Don't miss the chance to learn as much as possible from her.

Game Schedule for season

Coaches for each team have been busy establishing game schedules including tournaments. Each team manages their own scheduling.

League games for each team should be available by mid October with the remaining games worked in. They will be available on the website under each team including times and locations the last half of October. Regular season games are expected to start November 2nd.

Pre-State Tournament Play Offs

Typically called play downs, these games will happen in and around the Madison area the weekend of January 31-February 2. Wildcats teams compete against only other Region 4, Division 1 teams. Bracket format and game times/locations will be determined in January based on current game results and will be single elimination format.

State Tournament Teams

Any team winning through the play downs will represent Region 4 at their respective State Tournament.

Squirt and Bantam teams will compete during the weekend of March 7-8.

PeeWee teams will compete during the weekend of March 14-15.

18U (Midget) teams will compete during the weekend of March 20-22.

Specific tournament locations can be found at wahahockey.org under tournaments.

COACHES CORNER

From the bench of Shawn Behnke, WYHA Hockey Director

Hello Wildcat Parents and Players!

Welcome back for another season with the Wildcat Youth Hockey Association. With games starting right around the corner, I wanted to get some important information to you in regards to a new initiative starting in 2019 called **The Declaration of Safety, Fair Play and Respect**. This is a directive from USA Hockey and will apply to all Wildcat games this season and beyond. Please review this link <https://www.usahockey.com/declaration> for more information regarding this change. The link will provide videos, documents, and testimonials regarding **The Declaration of Safety, Fair Play and Respect**.

Some important notes:

- This will affect U8 (Body contact) through Bantam (Checking)

- This is not a new rule, it's a clarification and enforcement of current rules
- This is directly related to the safety of all hockey players
- Emphasis on: No head hits – No late hits – No checking from behind
- Body Checking (Bantam) – Regain possession of the puck – Stick on puck – Player must have the puck.
- This is something that will require coach and referee training. Keep in mind good sportsmanship from the bench and the stands regarding these changes. Please keep in mind that this is a change being made at the national level and have just recently been made within our organizations and within the referee community as well.

Thanks for your time and have a great season,
Coach Behnke

PICK UP NOTES FROM "THE POND"

The Ice Pond continues to provide a premier local hockey venue in the Madison area. The rink is known for being accessible, clean and comfortable. This year they are upping their game by providing LiveBarn.

LiveBarn is an instant video streaming platform provided through subscription at many rinks around the state. What does this mean?

You no longer need to be at the Ice Pond to watch your favorite Wildcat skater! While we would love to see you in person, that's not always possible. Through LiveBarn, loved ones around the world can watch and cheer from the comforts of their own home via computer or mobile device. You can also see your Wildcat skater at any other rink that provides LiveBarn coverage.

To take advantage of this incredible service, interested people can sign up at www.livebarn.com. The Wildcat discount code is f761-4b01. By using this discount code, a portion of the proceeds will come back to the rink as well as provide you with a discounted subscription. Information on other participating rinks is also available on the site.

If you already have a LiveBarn account, you can swap to this code under your profile section.

The Ice Pond, with Coach Kevin Hermanson, recently added a State Tournament trophy shelf. The display area is above the television and needs to be added to. If you have a State Tournament trophy at home, please bring it to the rink for all to see. Thank you to Coach Kevin for his help in applauding all our champions.

COMMUNICATION METHODS

Hockey is a small, tight knit community and the Wildcats are no different.

Once games start, a weekly email detailing the upcoming games by location will be sent to all families. Please consider arriving a few minutes early or staying a few minutes late if it means you can cheer on another Wildcat team.

Upcoming Warrior, Norski and Cap City Cougar games will also be included. Most of these skaters wore the black and yellow growing up. They continue to pay it forward in our communities and your support is valued.

Your encouragement of all skaters is so important for our hockey community and is noticed by all.

Did you know that Wildcat Hockey is on Facebook? Please like our page for the latest and greatest news related to Wildcats and hockey opportunities in the area. Some past posts have included free goalie clinics, free skate with the Badgers, and press releases. Every time you see a post, like it so others can see it too!

Wildcat Hockey is also entering the Instagram world. Please find [wildcat.hockey.wi](https://www.instagram.com/wildcat.hockey.wi) to see candid team photos, skaters in action, and loads more.

Please send any requested posts or photos to communications@wildcathockey.org. Impressive game results, tournament successes and Wildcats in the community should be shared and applauded by all. Please note in your submission if you wish to have the information submitted to local print newspapers for publication.

Stay tuned as additional social media may be added in the future.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WREATH FUNDRAISER

Once again, CaPaul's Tree Farm has partnered with Wildcat Hockey for a fundraising opportunity. A large portion of sales profits go directly to offsetting your skater's fees. Sales continue through the end of October. Information to all registered skaters was previously sent via email. Please contact Carrie Maier at carriedecot@hotmail.com or (608) 212-5437 for more information.

FREE FAMILY OPEN SKATE

Wildcat Hockey will be holding free Family Skates on October 13th from 3:00-4:30 and October 20th from 3:00-4:30. No prior experience or sign up is needed. Lace up those skates and come to the Ice Pond!

SPOOKY COSTUME SKATE

Ghosts, goblins and ghouls are lacing up the skates! Join other skaters in costume for a family skate on October 27th from 3:00-5:00. It is going to be a scary-ish, fun event and open to all. Spread the word to friends and family.

WILDCAT CLASSIC

Mark your calendars! The 3rd annual Wildcat Classic will be held October 25 and 26 at the Ice Pond. Wildcats of all ages will kick off the season with friendly pond hockey games against each other. Teams will include a combination of all 6U, 8U and Squirt Players. PeeWees and Bantams will join the fun as officials and coaches. Parents can get involved as volunteers, fans, and patrons of the Ice Pond. More information will be coming in the near future via email.

There will be food, fun and back by popular demand, the beer garden. The weekend is a great chance to bring the entire Wildcat community together. Don't miss it! More information can be found by visiting our website at [Wildcat Classic Info](#) and click on Wildcat Classic picture.

APPAREL STORE ALWAYS OPEN

Wildcat apparel has a new format this year. You can purchase it at any time! See a sweatshirt you like? Your child loses their favorite t-shirt? Need Christmas gifts, birthday gifts, or just because you want it? You can solve those problems with a simple computer click.

All orders are placed online at [Wildcat Apparel Online Store](#). Delivery options include pick up at Trending Now Promotions in Waunakee or shipment

to a chosen address. Questions can be directed to apparelcodirectors@wildcathockey.org.

STICK TAPS AND FLY BYS

Wildcat skaters and their families are awesome people. If you know of a Wildcat member or team that should be recognized for being a positive representative of our hockey community, contact communications@wildcathockey.org.

NEXT NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED IN NOVEMBER

This newsletter is intended to keep all families informed and up to date about hockey happenings in and around the Ice Pond. You can expect to see information that will involve current skaters, their families, high school alumni skaters, our rink, and other local hockey opportunities provided by the greater Madison community. If you have a topic to include in this publication, please contact communications@wildcathockey.org

