



WYHA Membership Newsletter, Edition 1, 2018- July 31

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Introduction

Hello, my name is John Samuelson and I am serving as WYHA president for the 2018-19 season, which officially got underway with the start of the association’s new fiscal year on July 1. Communicating information to our members is important and is something we as a board hope to continue to improve. We can’t communicate all things immediately or as soon as some would like, but we will try to do so when the time is right. I envision about two or three newsletters this season, hopefully none as lengthy as this one.

There are several new concepts or initiatives covered in this first edition for the 2018-19 season. The Board hopes you find it informative and structured in a way that allows you to find topics relevant to you and that you are interested in learning more about.

WYHA is volunteer operated and all those who help are a critical part of the organization. Meet your 2018-19 WYHA board members:

Board Member	Position		Board Member	Position
John Samuelson	President		Tye Moen	Director of Fundraising
Patrick Hagerman	President Elect		Kimberly Evans & Janine Gumley	Apparel Manager
Mike Thompson	Past President		OPEN	Director of Concessions
Julie Fulton	Secretary		Alex McKelvey	Equipment Manager
Derek Thompson	Treasurer		Shawn Behnke	Hockey Director Elect
Brandon Ballweg	Hockey Director		Justin Segersten	Hockey Director Emeritus
Matt Saltzberry	ALD-LTS/LTP/6U		Jessie Summers	Ice Scheduler
Annie Hahn	ALD-8U (Mite)		McFall (Brett & Karin)	Registrar
Karla Endres	ALD-10u (Squirt)		Leif Mikkelson	Skills Director
Steve Knapp	ALD-12U (Peewee)		Jaime Doty	Tournament Director
Barger (Lori & Al)	ALD-14U (Bantam)			

Rink Expansion

WYHA did an exploration in the spring of 2017 into the feasibility of a rink expansion. At that time, we presented the need for a rink to the members and polled the members about fee increases and pledges to support it. The membership overwhelmingly supported pursuing the idea further. Cost and fundraising modeling



along with preliminary rink expansion plans were completed and discussed with Waunakee Deforest Ice Rink Inc., (WDIR). WDIR is a 501 (c)(3) organization that owns and operates The Ice Pond. WDIR board members are all volunteer and were instrumental in fundraising for and organizing the construction of The Ice Pond.

WDIR was and is supportive of the rink expansion but did introduce experienced caution on the challenges related to financial and fundraising aspects of the expansion. Upon subsequent discussions between those involved in the exploration it was recently decided to table rink expansion for now. The reason for this is twofold: 1) WYHA would be required to raise the funds but would have limited control in applying the funds. To understand that better, think of WYHA as a client of WDIR, with no ownership in the rink. WDIR would be supportive of the fundraising effort but serve in a passive capacity. 2) the WDIR imposed target of 60% principal / 40% debt, although attainable, is a lofty goal and will require an experienced fundraising leader.

WDIR will support the rink expansion if financing requirements are met. What will it take to make rink expansion happen? It will require someone within WYHA that has experience with raising money for large projects and is able to pull together a group to lead the way. WYHA membership would need to be comfortable with the conditions set by WDIR. WYHA fundraising leadership would need several key donors to contribute seed money in the amount of \$750K to \$1M. Pledges (personal, business), WYHA, and other rink user group annual contributions (funded by fee increases) would need to round out the remaining funds to reach 60% principle (~\$3.5M to \$4M).

Teams

WYHA expects numbers to continue to grow this season. An additional Squirt team and a Midget team will be rostered. WYHA also plans to add a Rink Rat team (in cooperation with Sun Prairie and the Patriots).

Table: Projected number of rostered teams at each level

<i>Division</i>	<i>Number of Rostered Teams</i>
Learn To Skate	Strong numbers, two sessions
Learn To Play	Strong numbers
6U Mini Mites	4 or 5



8U Mites	6
Rink Rats	1 (in co-op with Sun Prairie & Patriots)
Squirts (10U)	6
Peewee (12U)	4
Bantam (14U)	3
Midget (18U)	1

Rink Rats

We plan to add a Rink Rat developmental team in cooperation with Sun Prairie and Patriots (East Madison). The purpose of this team is to give those skaters who need more skating and hockey development an avenue to do so before committing to the rigors of a travel team. Think of this as Learn To Play for kids 9 – 14 years old, but they will play other developmental teams in the area.

Midgets

WYHA will add a 18U Midget team in the 2018-19 season. We have head coach, Jason Bentley, and assistant coach, Chris Karls, secured for the team. WYHA board members have met with the high school hockey coaches about logistics. The Midget team is for any skater 18 years old or under who has used up both years of their WYHA bantam eligibility. High school eligible skater numbers are strong and are over the ideal roster levels. We are fortunate to be able to roster a midget team. It will allow skaters that don't wish to play high school hockey or who don't make the high school hockey team an avenue to continue to develop and work to try to make the high school team in subsequent seasons, if that is their goal. The Midget team will focus on player skill development and good hockey habits, along with an off-ice training program.

There will be an early season (about Sep. 26 – Nov. 2) to allow all non-bantam eligible 9th and 10th graders who played bantams last season to register and practice/play for the Midget team prior to the high school season starting in early November. Those skaters that make one of the high school teams may then leave the midget team, paying only a portion of the total Midget fee that supports the early season (See "2018-19 Skater Fees"). The first organized team activities will



take place following the Waunakee and DPL high school roster selections. Those in high school fall sports who can't join all or some of the early season will join the team the first week in November or join the practices they can in the early season.

Midget practices will average 2 on-ice practices per week during the season. Half ice practice ice will be split with one of the Bantam teams. Full ice practices will be at 6 AM weekdays when available, likely 6 to 10 early morning practices for the season. There will be 10 to 12 game ice sheets, which should generate a minimum of 10 to 12 away games. Playing in an invitational tournament and qualifying for and playing in the state tournament would generate an additional 6 games. This yields a potential 30+ game season.

C level teams

WYHA representatives have met with other area Division 1 youth hockey associations, e.g., Middleton, West Madison, Patriots, Sun Prairie, and have collectively agreed to all handle our C level teams the same way going forward. This will improve player development and the level of competition.

- Each C level teams will be rostered with like-skill skaters
- In the event an association has 3 C level teams in a division, e.g., squirt level, then:
 - The top-level C team will be called C1
 - The subsequent C teams will be called C2 red | C2 white | C2 blue, with the higher skill skaters on red and lower skill skaters on blue.
- This approach follows USA hockey guidelines to maximize player development by rostering like skilled skaters on the same team.

Girls Hockey

WYHA welcomes any girl who chooses to play co-ed hockey. Those that desire to play all-girls hockey have two options. The first option is to register with the DC Diamonds (an all-girls hockey program in Dane County) as her primary and only team. The second is to dual roster: the skater will register with both the DC Diamonds and their area coed team. Starting this season, a girl may dual roster at the same age level (see Dual Rostering below).



The collective goal of area associations is to grow girl's hockey in terms of numbers to allow for girls to play with like-skill skaters on an all-girls team.

Dual Rostering for Girls

This year a Wisconsin Amateur Hockey Association (WAHA) two-year pilot program goes in to effect for 10U, 12U, and 14U girl's hockey. Girls will be able to dual roster on a Tier II coed team and an all-girls association team at the SAME age level. A girl on two teams must designate a primary team no later than December 31 and communicate this to the associations and to the WAHA Girls Director. WYHA will encourage girls in WYHA to dual roster with the girl's association team at the SAME age level. This will give those girls on a coed team a chance to experience girls hockey.

In the event of a scheduling conflict she will participate with her primary team unless the coaches of both teams come to an agreement. The primary team will be the team she will participate with for state play downs and state tournament. In the event her primary team does not qualify for State she may play with the secondary team if they qualify. She may participate in play downs for both teams if they do not conflict.

14U Girls

The DC Diamonds will NOT be hosting a 14U girls team. The Ice Spirits Girl Hockey Association was dissolved effective May 28, 2018. Verona is the sole organization in the area offering A, B and C 14U girls teams for the 2018-19 hockey season. Therefore, girls living on the north and east side of Dane county will play on the 14U girls Verona team (instead of the DC Diamonds who will not have a 14U team) and will not need a transfer. This will yield enough participants to allow for three like-skill 14U girls teams (A, B, C) in the area, an opportunity not previously possible.

The current timeline (tentative to change) for the start of this season is that practices will start in mid-October. Placements will occur during two weeks of practices in late October with teams formed by November 1st. Practices will be held at Verona, Sun Prairie and Waunakee ice rinks.



Ice Time Crunch

It's old news that WDIR does not have enough ice to meet WYHA demand. This season WYHA will be making decisions to maximize dibs on ice time supply at WDIR not previously leveraged. This includes,

- Starting at 7 AM on Saturday and Sunday
- Practices starting at 4:30 during the week
- Practicing on the weekends - working around game logistics
- Scheduling games on deer hunting weekend
- Scheduling games on the weekend after Thanksgiving
- 6 AM weekday practice, when available, for Midgets

In addition, the ice scheduling committee is working diligently at trying to secure both practice and game ice at area rinks. Those rinks most likely to accommodate us at this point include: Sun Prairie, UW Shell, Sauk, Stoughton, and Oregon. Practice and 'home' games at area rinks will be distributed across all 'older' divisions and teams as evenly as possible. 8U Mites will be part of the mix at using area rinks, although hopefully to a lesser extent. (At this point we don't foresee 6U Mini-Mites, LTS, or LTP being scheduled at area rinks.)

Why are we practicing at other rinks? 1) WDIR is not meeting our demand for practice ice and 2) It will allow teams to get more half ice practices, i.e., two team, (three team in the case of squirts) practices and possibly a handful of full ice practices, if feasible.

We know that these practice times and locations are not ideal for all families and hope that you understand that we are doing this as a last resort.

Tryouts

Tryouts will start **EARLIER** this year. This will allow teams to be formed earlier and thus get teams scheduled for practices starting in late September when ice time supply is adequate.

WYHA board is fully aware there are fall sports and these tryout dates may interfere. We apologize for inconveniences with fall sports, but we do need the skater's attendance at the tryouts. We have spread the dates between weekend and



weekday to attempt to allow for fall sport participation. Once tryouts are over, skaters playing fall sports are strongly encouraged to finish out their commitment with those fall teams.

2018 Tryout dates are below. Times will be posted on the WYHA website very soon.

- Sun., Sep. 9: Squirt | Peewee | Bantam skater tryouts
- Tue., Sep. 11: ½ of Squirt | Peewee skater tryouts
- Thu., Sep. 13: other ½ of Squirt | Bantam skater tryouts
- Fri., Sep. 14: GOALIE tryouts for Squirt, Peewee, Bantam
- Sun. Sep. 16: Bubble tryouts for Squirt, Peewee, Bantam (selected/invited players only)

Based on parent, coach and evaluator comments from last season, the tryout process will be tweaked and improved again this season.

- The total number of tryouts will be reduced by half. We had about 700-person hours invested in tryouts last season. That is not sustainable.
- Due to expanding numbers, WYHA will use methods to reduce the number of skaters that need to attend tryouts. Skaters excluded from tryouts may include, 1) previous season A team skaters that are returning for their 2nd year in the same division AND with agreement from the previous season head coach and 2) skaters who are at the low-end skill level.
- We will be utilizing previous and current season head coach's input at key points in the tryout process.
- The tryouts will be closed to an audience. WYHA used to have this policy and we are bringing it back this season. The kids focus too much on the audience and it adds stress before, during, after tryouts.

Wildcat Classic

WYHA will host the 2nd annual Wildcat Classic this season, with two key changes.

- It will ONLY include 6U Mite, 8U Mite, and Squirts
- It will occur in October instead of January. The dates will be Friday, October 26 and Saturday, October 27.
- Beer & food, e.g., brats & hamburgers (need we say more!).



WYHA board is fully aware there is no school Thursday and Friday of that week for Waunakee students. We examined several weekends and logistically this weekend made the most sense.

The format will be like last year, with three cross ice games being played at a time. We expect about two, 20-minute run time games on Friday and about four, 20-minute run time games on Saturday. There will be pond hockey style nets, no goalies. We will be recruiting select peewee and bantam age players to be team reps and provide an older kid presence on the ice.

2018-19 Budget

The 2018-19 budget was approved at the July board meeting. WYHA is budgeting a small loss again this season. The club has had several years of positive net income and as a non-profit we do try to balance that out, at least from a budget mindset.

Wildcat Youth Hockey Association			
2018-19 Season Budget Recap			
For the Year Ending June 30, 2019			
	2018-19 Budget	2017-18 Actual	2017-18 Budget
Net Skating Fees	202,082	156,353	164,888
Fundraising	42,608	40,202	36,054
Volunteer Credits not earned	9,000	11,639	9,000
Equipment Rental	500	75	500
Miscellaneous Revenue	-	1,405	-
Interest Income	50	47	15
Total Revenue	254,240	209,721	210,457
Ice Fees	176,909	125,236	141,405
Officials	13,242	10,644	12,168
Coaching	14,106	13,261	21,100
Equipment	14,000	5,514	6,500
CC Fees	5,900	5,512	5,200
Coach Certs/Background	5,700	2,361	5,700
Ice Pond Contribution	7,778	7,778	7,778
WAHA/Region 4	9,605	8,754	9,605
Off-Ice Training	7,000	2,500	-
Other Costs	7,400	5,441	9,129
Total Expenses	261,640	187,001	218,585
Net Income/(Loss)	(7,400)	22,720	(8,128)

It is no surprise that ice fees make up 68% of the expenses in the budget. We continue to budget aggressively for ice time, approximately 520 hours of practice ice and 200 hours of game ice. It is a lofty goal, but one that does reflect our desired demand. Reaching that goal will be difficult due to ice supply shortage at WDIR and area rinks in general. In 2017-18 our actual ice usage was about 560 hours of game plus practice ice, short of last season's goal.



2018-19 Skater Fees

Skater fees are increasing for most levels: 6U mites (\$25), 8U mites (\$50), squirts (\$40), peewees (\$45), and bantams (\$50).

- 8U mite fee includes \$25 for the Greg Werner Mite Jam Tournament. In past seasons this was paid separately and not part of skater fees. More on this tournament is below under “Tournaments”.
- 6U mite has not had a fee increase since the 2013-14 season.

2018-19 Skater Fees	Early Bird	After Early Bird
LTS	\$75	\$75
LTP	\$200	\$200
Rink Rat	\$300	\$300
U6	\$350	\$350
U8	\$525	\$525
Squirts	\$785	\$835
PeeWee	\$875	\$925
Bantam	\$990	\$1,040
Midget	\$990	\$990

>>>Midgets: Any skater starting the season in Midgets and then makes the high school team (per high school coach decision) pays a partial fee of \$300, due at registration. If the family with the Midget skater does not have a skater at other levels then they will not be required to buy raffle tickets or required to fulfill volunteer hours.

Tournaments

There are three tournaments this season that WYHA will be pre-registering on behalf of the team. This is done because these tournaments can and do fill up quickly, often before our teams are set.

Sun Prairie Tournament -The Cardinal Cup

All team levels that are allowed in the Sun Prairie Cardinal Cup Tournament will be registered on behalf of the team before the season starts. Coach’s feedback after last season is that teams should continue to participate in this tournament.

One change over last year for this tournament will be that the tournament games are budgeted as part of that team’s game ice, i.e., teams won’t need to reimburse WYHA for the tournament fee. This accomplishes two things, 1) It opens about 20



hours of ice over the season for practice at WDIR that would have otherwise been used for those team’s games, and 2) it avoids the confusion of teams needing to reimburse WYHA for the tournament.

Teams registered for the tournament include:

Squirt A	Squirt B	Squirt C1	Squirt C2 Red	8/9/18, JS: Will Also include Squirt C2 white
Peewee A	Peewee B	Peewee C1		
Bantam A	Bantam B			

West Bend 8U tournament

All 8U mite teams will be pre-registered in the West Bend tournament on behalf of the team before the season. This is a tournament that all our 8U teams have done for several years and the kids (and parents) have a great time.

The cost of this tournament will be an extra fee collected by team managers shortly after team rosters are set.

Greg Werner 8U Mite Jam

This is a tournament run by WYHA at the end of the season. All teams participate and have a fun time. It is a memorial tournament named after Greg Werner, a coach who was very influential in WYHA. You can read about his story on a plaque hanging to the right of the main doors to the rink.

For the first time this season, fees for this tournament will be included in skater fees.

Jerseys (new jersey design and type for some levels)

The board felt it was reasonable to consider updating the jersey design and material (a heavy, warm jersey type) that had not been updated for at least 12 years. In July at the annual meeting a question was posed to members as to whether WYHA should proceed with a new jersey design and material type. The resolution to replace the jerseys passed 38 to 18.



6U & 8U Mites

No change to the 6U and 8U Mite reversible light/dark jersey, cost remains at \$50 per jersey, charged to the family. This fee, if your skater needs a jersey, will be added to your account at registration.

Squirt & Pee wee

Squirt and Pee wees will be required to purchase new jerseys at a cost of \$100 for both a light and dark jersey for the 2018-19 season. This fee will be added to your account at registration. The apparel manager will be holding jersey try on sessions. These sessions will be important to attend as the new jerseys are expected to fit differently. Returning squirt and pee wee skaters will need to keep their same jersey number.

Bantams

The new jersey style will be phased in over two seasons for Bantams: 2018-19 season they will be optional and 2019-20 season they will be required. The 2nd year Bantam skater has only one season left as a Bantam, so WYHA is not requiring the purchase of a jersey for them. However, if a Bantam skater decides to purchase a new jersey, it will be the new jersey design. Since the branding or color of the jerseys did not change, mixing both jersey styles on the Bantam teams is tolerable for the 2018-19 season.

Midgets

Midgets will skate with the new jersey design and type. *The jerseys will be purchased by and owned by WYHA.* The jerseys will not have skater last names printed on the jersey and numbers will be assigned by team manager and/or coaches. This is the model (jersey owned by club and no name) used in high school so it starts to set the stage for skaters and parents for the next level of hockey.



Volunteer Hours and Related Policy Revisited

This section is intended to highlighting portions of the Parent Handbook that are worth review and understanding.

Every family with at least one skater in 8U through Midgets will be responsible for a 20-hour volunteer commitment. There are several opportunities to volunteer. A primary path to complete these hours, other than coaching, team manager, or a board position is the concession stand. Keeping the concession stand staffed is critical for WYHA to reach our fundraising targets.

Concession Stand Volunteer Hours

There will be many opportunities to work volunteer hours in the concession stand during the months of October through March. Parents will be credited \$20 per hour worked in the concession stand. Open volunteer hours will be posted up to 6 weeks in advance. The online link to sign up for concession stand hours will be made available through email and will be posted on the Wildcat Website.

Cancelling Concession Stand Volunteer Hours

1. You may cancel your volunteer hours in the concession stand up to 1 week in advance of when you were to work without penalty.
2. If you need to cancel within 7 days of the time that you volunteered for, you must either find a replacement for your time or pay a \$35 fee.
3. A No-Show for a volunteer spot in the concession stands will be charged a \$35 fee.

Buying out volunteer hours

If a family elects to buy out their volunteer hours instead of working them, they will be charged \$400 at the time of registering their skaters and this will be included in their first half of the season dues. If a family chooses to buy out their volunteer hours after the registration period, the buyout charge will be \$500 and this additional \$100 charge will be added to the family's second half of season dues.



Hockey Director (same fun, new name)

USAH Hockey has stopped using the term "ACE." To match this change, WYHA has replace ACE with "Hockey Director." The By-Laws and handbooks were updated this year to reflect the change. The Hockey Director will continue to be a three-year track. Your Hockey Directors for the 2018-19 season are:

- Hockey Director-Elect: Shawn Behnke
- Hockey Director: Brandon Ballweg
- Hockey Director-Emeritus: Justin Segersten