**Reading Youth Hockey**

**2016-17 Fall News Letter**

**PROGRAM OVERVIEW**
RYH continues to be one of the strongest town hockey programs in the area. This season we will field 18 travel teams consisting of over 270 players. In addition we offer an in-house mite program, the Reading Mite Hockey League (RMHL), where we expect another 8 teams/100 players. We will also offer Learn To Skate and Learn To Play sessions starting in October.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
All of Board positions are filled by volunteers. Our Executive positions – President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary – are up for renewal every year. All other positions are on a rolling 2-year cycle. If you have any interest in helping in any capacity please contact any Board member.

Board meetings are held monthly, and 3 times per season we hold open meetings where the public is welcome to come and discuss any topic. Open meetings are held in November, February and May and specific dates are communicated in advance.

Board contact information can be found on our website via the ‘Board of Directors’ tab across the top of the page. Our By-Laws can be found under the ‘Forms’ menu.

**PAYMENT & REGISTRATION**
Final payment for this season was due on September 1st, so all players should either be paid in full or on a board approved payment plan. If you have any questions, please contact our Treasurer Tim Parsons at t\_parsons@verizon.net.

To update registration information (address, phone, email, etc.) or to make a payment on-line, log-in via the Association/Edit My Account menu from our home page.

**USA HOCKEY**
As a member of USA Hockey we are required to have every player and coach registered with USA Hockey. Player numbers should be recorded on our website, instructions can be found on our main page.

All coaches who help on the ice, even if not an officially rostered coach, must also register and provide the number to the Level Director. RYH will reimburse the fee for coaches. Level Directors will be coordinating CORI checks for all coaches as well.

Rostered coaches must have a valid CEP certification; clinics may be found on the USA Hockey website; RYH will reimburse coaches the clinic fees.

**SKILLS**
We have again contracted with Chris Dyment to offer skills sessions on Wednesday nights. These skills will supplement team practices and we strongly recommend that all players attend their scheduled sessions. Skills will run for the first couple of months of the season.

**COACHES MEETING**
A mandatory coaches meeting will be held on September 21stat RMLD (230 Ash St.), 7:00pm. If you are coaching any level please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

**LOCKER ROOM POLICY & SAFETY**
We have an official locker room policy posted in our ‘Forms’ section that all coaches and parents must read and understand. Additionally please note that Burbank and most other rinks have hazards to be aware of. For example, to reach the benches at Burbank via foot one must walk past the Zamboni area and there have been close calls in the past with children running in that space as the Zamboni is backing up. Please watch all children while at the rink and do not allow them to go on the benches or in any area beyond the locker rooms.

**CODE OF CONDUCT**
At registration every parent is required to acknowledge several waivers, including a code of conduct waiver that applies to players and parents alike. These should have been read and understood. However, if you did not print the acknowledgement at the time of registration and would like a copy please contact Chris Meehan at Presidentryh@gmail.com.

**PRACTICES**
All of our practices will be held at Burbank Arena until the High School season starts after Thanksgiving, at which time we will supplement our Burbank practices with ice at Holland Arena in Woburn.

**GAMES**
Game schedules are posted on the respective league websites; coaches are encouraged to add games to their RYH website team page so that notifications (text, email) will be sent along with practice notifications. Parents can turn notifications on/off by logging into our site and updating your player record(s).

One change this season is that all Squirt teams will be playing a 35-game schedule rather than a 45-game schedule. We are using this as a pilot and will re-evaluate in the spring for next season.

**TOURNAMENTS**
Where applicable RYH will enter teams in the Mass Hockey District 10 tournament and State Tournament for those teams who qualify. Other private tournaments are the responsibility of the coaches to find and book directly. Official rosters can be obtained by contacting District 10 Rep Rich Lucas at richlucasjr@gmail.com.

**FUNDRAISING**
As a non-profit organization we rely on fundraising to help keep our tuition affordable. Due to popular demand we have eliminated calendar sales this season and will look for other methods to help offset our costs. Ideas and suggestions in this area are always welcome; please contact Fundraising Director Petra Marino at petra\_marino@yahoo.com.

**WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA**
We are looking for some help managing our website and our social media accounts. If you have some basic tech skills and would be willing to help please contact Chris Meehan at Presidentryh@gmail.com.

**REFERENCES**

**USA Hockey**: [www.usahockey.com](http://www.usahockey.com)
*- Register players for the season, access the Parents Handbook and code of conducts, coaching clinic schedules, ADM info and much more interesting and important information for players and parents.* ***ALL PARENTS MUST VISIT THIS SITE TO AT LEAST READ THE PARENTS HANDBOOK****.*

**Mass Hockey**: [www.masshockey.org](http://www.masshockey.org)
- I*nformation about sanctioned tournaments, Districts & States , interesting articles and more.*

**Valley League**: [www.valleyhockeyleague.com](http://www.valleyhockeyleague.com)

**Middlesex-Yankee Girls League**: [www.mycgl.com](http://www.mycgl.com)