

Board Trustee Nominee Biographical Information

The following information is requested of any candidate for a contested CCYHA Board of Trustee position. This information will be available on the CCYHA website and at the Chiller Dublin rink. All candidates must be a member in good standing with CCYHA. Please be brief in your responses.

Name: Nicole (Nicki) Kraft

Provide any personal information you would like voters to know.

(Please include where you live in the community and for how long, number of children active in CCYHA, brief information about your professional background, and anything else you consider pertinent):

I am the mother of a '01 Pee Wee House and Select player who has been in CCYHA since he was a first-year Mite. My husband, son and I are residents of Clintonville and have been in Columbus since 1996, after relocating from California. I have worked as a newspaper reporter and editor, magazine writer and editor, Congressional press secretary and public relations professional, and am now a Clinical Assistant Professor of Journalism in the School of Communication at Ohio State University and a freelance magazine writer.

Summarize any previous CCYHA volunteer experience or similar experience with other youth athletic organizations, including coaching, commissioner, board member, etc.:

For CCYHA, I have twice been team manager for my son's Squirt teams and presently assist our Select manager. I am the vice president of communication on the Executive Board of the Columbus Ice Hockey Club and have been a Level 2 coach for mites and "learn to play". I also coached boys' basketball at the junior high level.

Do you participate in other volunteer activities about which you would like the CCYHA voting members to know?

I am on the advisory board for the Columbus International High School and have served as a lead member of the Columbus City Schools Innovative Schools Task Force. As part of my job at Ohio State, I work with inner-city youths in the summer LifeSports Camps. I am on the patient advisory board for the Central Ohio Chapter of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and for Camp Kesem, a summer camp for kids whose parents have or had cancer.

Briefly describe why you would like to become a CCYHA board member and add any additional information you would like to provide that would support your belief that you would be a productive addition to the CCYHA board.

I believe in CCYHA and youth hockey and believe that a strong league will help make our kids the strong citizens of tomorrow. Hockey is a unique sport in the sense of community it fosters and the discipline and maturity required of its participants from an early age. I know my son is a better player, student and person because of the influence of CCYHA on his life, and I would like better to support that for him and others. I bring a practical and constructive approach to the CCYHA board that I have developed through my multiple life roles:

- As a parent I believes in the life skills that hockey brings to its players, far more so than wins and losses, and am committed to the idea that being a good team member means making those around you better.
- As an educator I understand the variety of goals and needs that come with any disparate group of personalities, and the need to listen as well as speak, and to respect viewpoints from all sides.
- As a fair and impartial reporter and in my political experience, I learned to view situations with objectivity to help develop the best solutions for the greatest number of people.
- Through my years in sport I have learned the value of team and teamwork, and the inherent benefit of working with those whose talents in areas far exceed my own.

I have seen CCYHA operate from the outside and from the coaching/managerial side, and respect the challenges and opportunities it offers. I believe I can contribute in numerous ways to help the league grow.

Briefly describe, if elected, the priority you would place on the volunteer time for CCYHA and provide a brief statement regarding the amount of quality time you anticipate you would be able to commit to the organization.

I have one child and already devote myself to hockey, so this would primarily be a reallocation of resources. As my son's skill levels have increased, we have dedicated more to CCYHA, and this feels like a natural extension of that dedication. In addition, as a professor, I have more time flexibility than some others. I don't do anything unless I can do it fully, and pledge to commit my time, efforts and energy to the betterment of the organization.

I have read the Trustee obligations posted on CCYHA.org. I acknowledge the commitment associated with being a Board Member of CCYHA and attest that I am able to fulfill the responsibilities and obligations associated with the position.

 Yes **No**