

WILMINGTON YOUTH HOCKEY

Fall 2011 Newsletter

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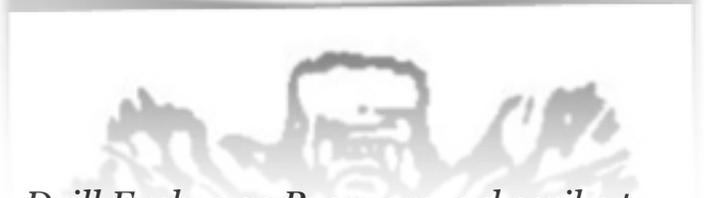
Got Pictures?

Coaches Training & Thanks

Website Changes Take Notice

Attendance link, Facebook, In the Exchange, Drill Exchange Program, subscribe to calendar, rink locations

Congratulations to Our 2011 Stanley Cup Champions: Boston Bruins.



Details

2011 Season Status: September 6th through October 28, 2011

We have a Girls U19, three Mite, two Squirt, two PeeWee, two Bantam, two Midget, Buzzers, Skills, and a Goalie program for the 2011-2012 season.

WYHA parity season has begun, Wilmington Teams took the ice in various locations across Massachusetts. Participating in 93 games and 208 practices prior to October 29th, 2011.

The Valley League will be posting a post parity schedule soon and WYHA will reflect that on our Website as well, stay tuned.

Buzzer Program Still Accepting Registrations:

With the Bruins winning the Cup, hockey interest has received an extra boost amongst the kids. To accommodate for this, WYHA has started its Buzzer program earlier than other seasons. Our number of players and coaches for this program has increased and is off to its biggest start in seasons. Having said that, we are STILL accepting new memberships. So, for all the Soccer families, whose season is ending, there is still time to join the fun. This can be done via the Website.

Scheduling Information:

This season the WYHA formed a scheduling committee, consisting of WYHA Board Members as well as parents of current players, to address the many intricacies that are involved in creating the master schedule. Consistent with previous seasons, WYHA contracts approximately 500 hours of ice time each season at the Ristuccia Arena. While the dates and times are generally known there are certain factors that are outside of the control of WYHA. The most prevalent one is the Valley Hockey League, which releases the game schedule in 6-8 week intervals. Additionally, WYHA's contract with the Arena stipulates that we relinquish scheduled ice to the Boston Bruins, WHS, and certain other events (and thus WHYA is not charged for said ice).

With that information as a backdrop, the scheduling committee has attempted to communicate, as best as possible, the practice schedule as it is currently constructed. We understand the many scheduling demands that we are all faced with during the season and feel that to have the schedule in advance, even if it may be subject to change, is perhaps better than not having the information at all. We attempted to accommodate certain factors such as coaches requests, CCD schedules, and tournaments as well as guidelines from USA Hockey on practice times by age. In addition, we tried as best we could to not go longer than 7 days between scheduled practices. The latter only becomes an issue during the High School hockey season (approximately 10 weeks) in which WYHA's scheduled ice time decreases significantly. We are hopeful that players will take advantage of the Sunday skill sessions at 4:15PM which will serve as a supplement to the practice time with the player's respective team. In the end, the primary goal of the schedule committee is to maximize the ice value to WYHA and its members.

We welcome your comments, feedback and suggestions as we continue to try to make this process more efficient and effective to all those involved with WYHA.

The WYHA Scheduling Committee

Peter Kourkoutas

Clare Elkins

Laurie Gallucci

Donna Keogan

Joe Kippenberger

Dan Ardito

Try Hockey For Free Day:

USA hockey is celebrating "Come Play Hockey Month" with Try Hockey For Free Day on November 5th, 2011. WYHA will honor this day on Sunday November 6th, 2011 from 2:00PM-4:00PM at Ristuccia.

This event is FREE. If you always wanted to try hockey please join us on this day. Details will be posted on our Website.

A Chat with Janice Gennetti

Janice Gennetti first started her Youth Hockey obsession, in 1987. That was the first year her sons Chuck and Justin Vallas started in Wilmington Youth Hockey. Justin was fortunate enough to go on to play college hockey and soccer at Worcester State, where brother Chuck played football, before being deployed for his first tour in Bosnia. Here we are 24 years later and her youngest son Cam Owens is playing Midgets today as well as looking forward to another year on the Wilmington High School hockey team. We can't leave out her infamous son, Andy Owens, one of last years' team captains of the Wilmington High School hockey team that also came up through the ranks of Wilmington Youth Hockey.

After all those years of getting the kids to the rinks on time, helping tie skates, putting on pads in the stinky locker rooms and cheering from the stands, Janice surely has enough history to claim her spot in WYHA alumni. However, that was not all she did. She went above and beyond those parental duties in the 2004-2005 season when she first joined the Board of Directors. She became president of Wilmington Youth Hockey Association, the following year and remained president for the next 5 years. Anyone with a current hockey player has had the benefit of Janice's hard work, dedication and well-known contacts. One of the single largest accomplishments Janice deserves credit for, is the implementation of the website for online registration, communications, scheduling, etc. Could you even imagine trying to keep track of everything without the website?! While this is certainly one of her most visual

accomplishments, it is by no means her only accomplishment. The daily details and negotiations required for an organization with so many members and parents all with opinions and concerns, is at times overwhelming. Janice has held it all together while dealing with minute details, personal feelings, unreasonable demands, emotional responses and the smell of hockey always hanging in the air. She attributes her motivation to keep going forward to: “the youngest, littlest players come off the ice after a practice or a game with rosy cheeks, wet hair and a HUGE smile on their faces. Nothing beats that!” Janice hasn’t done this alone. There is always a full Board of Directors that help with the different areas of running the Association. This is a volunteer run organization and nothing can be done without those volunteers.

Janice has retired her presidency this year, but has some parting information to share with the remaining members. She has a lot of hopes for the current and future Wilmington hockey players. Janice would like to see a return to true town hockey. That means playing for your town with your friends, neighbors and sometimes siblings. “The onslaughts of for-profit, self titled “AAA” programs are destroying all the town hockey programs. Not that many years ago, only true “elite” players would make a select team.” (Many of who also played for their town) This allowed all levels of players to have a place to play and taught kids the skills of leadership, humility and pride. One of hockey’s largest detriments is the cost associated with playing. “WYHA has been fortunate enough each year to receive the Albert F. Reidy Grant, which has been applied to keeping our fees relatively stable over the last few years. However, ice costs and league fees continue to rise yearly.” Her ultimate wish would have been “to see WYHA have enough revenue to purchase or build their own rink, which would be used solely for the youth of Wilmington. A lot of people don’t realize that the Ristuccia Arena is a privately owned rink, it is not owned by Town.” Therefore, WYHA is subjected to the whims of the manager and the schedules of the other renters at Ristuccia.

Janice will take many fond memories of watching her four boys learn to skate, play games and grow up at Ristuccia and other rinks before moving on. While it is now Janice's turn to move on, WYHA will forever be indebted to her service and support. Not just as president or board member but as a Mom with kids in the program. Twenty-four years is a long time to be part of any organization and Janice did as much as anyone could and more. If you happen to see Janice in a rink or around the town be sure to give her a wave say hi and maybe even a big old THANKS! We'll miss you Janice. Go Wildcats!

By Jennifer Ahlin

ADM:

What's ADM? American Development Model Hockey, implemented by USA hockey for the future of hockey. It is a nationwide model for successfully developing American hockey players.

" The ADM, through utilization of LTAD principles, allows us to integrate training, competition and recovery programming with relation to biological development so that we can fully get at a kid's full potential. To make an athlete out of a kid. Make a hockey player out of an athlete. The ADM offers equal opportunity for recreation and competition - a key to retaining younger players."

Please go to our Website's home page and go to the ADM tab for details on: Main description by USA Hockey, Mission Statement, What Others are saying, FAQs, Parental information, Coaching plans, Videos, and an official printable ADM guide.

Skills:

WYHA has implemented skills on Sunday afternoons for all players at the Mite or above level. This program has been a great success to date and we encourage our players to participate. This event is posted on our home page with all details about it and our instructors.

Fundraising Committee Message:

Thank You

First and foremost the Fundraising Committee wants to thank all the families who came out to "Welcome back to Hockey Day", Saturday September 10, 2011. It was a first of its kind , with over 35 families attending it was a great success with hope of more to come in the next season.

Thank You yet again to those who attended our first meeting of the year on October 5th, 2011. We are always looking for volunteers and ideas to help our organization. Please contact Laurie Gallucci at laurieg11@hotmail.com if you would like to get involved.

Car Decals

Orders have been confirmed and placed. We will notify people when the shipment arrives and make arrangements for pick up.

Chili's Night Out

The Committee is working with Chili's to lock down a date that "Chili's Gives Back" to WYHA. During that day Chili's will donate 10% of purchases that present the "Give Back Night" flyer. Details will be posted on our web site when this is finalized.

Paw Shoppe

The Committee has also been working on starting the Paw Shoppe, which will be available to all on our Website. The shop will sell different WYHA apparel at all times. The Shoppe will go Live within the next few weeks, and will be available on our Home page.

We are planning on having various apparel on display and available for sale at the rink on Sundays October 16th, 2011- November 13th, 2011 from 1:00PM-5:00PM just in time for the Holidays.

We hope the WYH players show their colors through these nice products. More details will be posted to the Website.

All Sales will be final and to cut down on fees, only checks and cash will be accepted.

Adult Dance:

Last year's 80's dance was such a great success that we will be doing another type of dance again. Save the date as March 10th, 2012 we will be holding our Biggest Fundraiser of the year at the Knights of Columbus. This year's theme is TBD. Details will be coming soon.

*The fundraising committee continues to make and change plans. Information will be posted and forwarded as plans are set.

Website Changes to Take Notice:

Attendance Link: If you receive a reminder email for a practice or game, you will now have an option to notify the coach whether or not you will be attending. Please start using this feature going forward

In the exchange: Allows our members to post and sell, trade or donate hockey equipment. This is a great feature to our members, we hope you take advantage of this.

Facebook: We are live with this latest feature, our membership enjoys WYHA communications through it, please sign up and "friend" us!

Drill exchange program: Attention all coaches, current and future. We will be storing drills to be used at different levels for now and the future. This will be yet another mechanism that will help WYHA produce a great product for its membership. This is coming soon!

How to Use this Site: We have added information on how to "subscribe" to your team's Calendar via the Website. This feature will automatically pull down dates and events that are associated with your team.

VIP Links: Has been updated to include Rink locations

Got Pictures?

We are always looking for cool hockey pictures of our players, if you want them posted to our Website or put in the local paper, please forward a copy with details to: Kourkoutas@gmail.com

Sponsors:

WYHA is always looking for new Sponsors for our program. If interested please contact WYHA via the "ask a question" tab on our home page.

Coaches:

Across our program we now have 47 Coaches: Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Team Managers. Our coaches work hard during the season and the off-season. They need certifications to get on that bench to coach our children. They attend classes both offsite and online, they work hard to get certified. USA hockey is constantly trying to improve the game and as a result our coaches have to constantly keep up with those changes as well. We would like to Thank them again for their dedication and commitment to making WYHA a better program for today and tomorrow.

Be Heard:

"Ask A Question". WYHA is trying to make sure that no one is not heard. We invite you to ask any question regarding our program that you cannot find on our Website. Questions will be answered by an appropriate Board Member.

Our Message to You All:

Our program is consistently trying to improve itself. This is solely done with volunteers. With your help we can try to improve our program and the experience of our children. Please join our cause by joining the board or a sub committee.

Our Board of Directors are listed on our Website as well, feel free to contact anyone of us with any questions.

Constructive feedback is always welcome!

Thank You