



August 14, 2008

Dear Friends of Hanover Hockey:

Our 2007-08 Wild Mite, Learn to Play Wild, and Girls Development seasons were very successful. Looking forward to the 2008-09 season we want to share some news about further program enhancements that will be offered by Hanover Hockey Association (HHA).

**Program Focus:** The Learn to Play Wild, Wild Mites, and Girls Development program focus remains the same with emphasis on fun, skills development, and exposure to games.

The Learn to Play Wild (LTPW) sessions are for the younger and less-experienced player who likely does not have any previous hockey experience. The on-ice sessions will feature a clinic-style approach to the practices with lots of hands-on coaching and instruction. There will be three separate 7-week sessions with several registration options.

The Wild Mite (WM) program will feature a 7-week clinic-style pre-season followed by a 14-week Team Season will include games between the HHA teams and some games between our teams and house mite teams from other local associations. These games will be cross-ice initially but will likely move to larger ice games by the end of the season. This year we plan to wrap up the WM season with a mite hockey jamboree.

The Girls Development (GD) program is for girls ages 9-12 who do not have previous organized hockey experience. The on-ice sessions will feature a clinic-style approach to the practices with lots of hands-on coaching and instruction. As the girls develop hockey skills there may be an opportunity for them to play games against other teams from HHA's introductory programs.

**Ice Times:** We cannot guarantee ice times and locations because we are limited by ice availability, but it is our goal that virtually all skates for introductory programs will be at Champion, Thompson, or Hartford rinks. We expect that most of the skate times will be Saturday and Sunday early mornings (7AM-10AM). We will work with the HHA Scheduler to try include some midweek afternoon skates. In addition there will be at least one weekend day per session (which will be published in advance) with no scheduled skates.

**Player Eligibility:** The Learn to Play Wild program is ideal for players ages 5-8 (born in years 2000-2004) who can balance and move forward on skates but who have had little or no exposure to ice hockey. The Wild Mites program – for ages 6-8 (born in 2000-2003) – is ideal for players with at least one year of hockey experience (including pond hockey). The Girls Development program is for girls ages 9-12 (born in 1996-1999). To ensure that players end up in the program that best suits their skills, the coaches will have some discretion to recommend or require certain younger players to change programs if it is in the best interest of the player and program. We also encourage parents of players younger than 5 years to be actively involved on or off-ice to best ensure a good experience for their child. Some of you may also be interested to know that HHA plans to have a Travel Mite team this season. We are happy to discuss the appropriate program for your player at any time before or during the registration process.

**Length of Season:** Learn to Play Wild participants can opt for one, two, or three 7-week Clinic Seasons running from November 1 through March 29, while Wild Mites can choose the November 1 – December 14 Clinic Season and/or the December 20 – March 22 Team Season with team practices and games. Girls Development season is November 1 – March 22. We expect that all programs will average 2 skates per week.

**Fees:** We have created a fee structure that reflects the projected enrollment and costs of the programs. Each Clinic or Team Season player will receive a hockey jersey. In addition to these fees, all players must be registered with USA Hockey before skating in any HHA program. This annual registration fee is \$31, which is waived by USA Hockey for players aged 6 and under.

*Learn to Play Wild\* (actual fee due is amount listed less any payment already made for the player)  
\$300 three LTPW Clinics paid in advance option\*\*  
\$115 per individual Clinic Season*

*Wild Mites\* (actual fee due is amount listed less any payment already made for the player)  
\$300 Clinic+Team Seasons paid in advance\*\*  
\$115 per individual Clinic Season  
\$230 Team Season only option*

*Girls Development\* (actual fee due is amount listed less any payment already made for the player)  
\$300 Full season*

\* Refunds of the registration fee less a \$30 trial fee will be made to those who try these initiation program for up to 3 skates and find that it is not for them.

\*\* Paid in advance options are available only if paid in full by September 6, 2008.

**Program Availability:** *Please note that availability of programs is contingent on a sufficient number of registrations. If we must cancel a program then your HHA fees will be refunded.*

**So ... What do I do next?** Great Question! Here are some next steps that you should consider:

1. **If you have questions** about these programs, call or email:

Learn to Play Wild & Wild Mites: Charlie Hackett 603.643-0084 [charlie.hackett@hypertherm.com](mailto:charlie.hackett@hypertherm.com)

Girls Development: Betsy Knights 603.643-0041 [hellobck@aol.com](mailto:hellobck@aol.com)

2. **Register!** Go to [www.hanoverhockey.org](http://www.hanoverhockey.org) to find the registration forms. September 6, 2008 is the registration deadline for the paid in advance options described above. The Wednesday before the beginning of each session is the registration deadline for any session after September 6.

3. **Attend the HHA Skate Sale** at Champion Rink on September 6, 2008 (9:45 am-1:00 pm) for great deals on used equipment. There will also be a registration table at the skate sale.

4. **Monitor the HHA website** ([www.hanoverhockey.org](http://www.hanoverhockey.org)) for announcements.

5. **VOLUNTEER to help out!** We need experienced and not-so-experienced coaches for these programs. Please contact us if you are interested in being a coach or in helping in an off-ice role; we are looking for any and all ideas that will contribute to a great and fun experience for the kids!

6. **Spread the word!** Youth hockey continues to grow and flourish around the country and in the Upper Valley. We think these new programs will be a wonderful way to introduce young players to the great sport of ice hockey, so get your friends and neighbors interested as well!

Thank you for your interest in Hanover Hockey! On behalf of Hanover Hockey Association:

Charlie Hackett  
Betsy Knights  
Dan French

Jeff Graham  
Mike Wagner