

# Stamford Youth Hockey Association

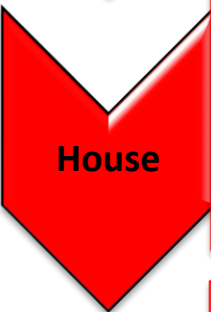
## “What Now?!?!”

The Association shall teach and promote the fundamental skills needed to play developmental and competitive hockey among our Stamford youth in a positive, fun, safe, and nurturing environment while promoting an atmosphere where friendships develop among families, coaches and players.

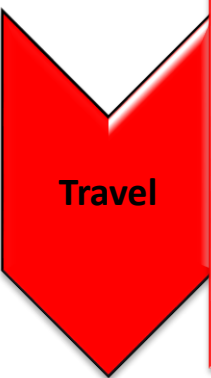
With the above as our mission statement, we recognize that very few children will reach the NHL. SYHA competes at the AA, A, and B levels, which is sufficient to prepare any child to play for their high school hockey team.



- This is SYHA's developmental program. It is geared towards kids with little or no skating experience (a basic "Snowplow Sam" course is sufficient).
- Many kids start as early as 4 years old; however, this class is also appropriate for the 11-year-old who wants to try hockey for the first time.
- Classes are for one hour, one morning per week. They focus on all the basics of skating and hockey.



- This is SYHA's first level of competitive hockey; however, the focus is still on development and fun. Practices and games follow the American Development Model by USA Hockey. Kids may join regardless of hockey experience. Typically, the youngest kids in this program are 6 years old. The age varies on the upper end--with successful registrations, SYHA strives to field House level teams all the way through the eighth grade.
- House Hockey begins in mid-October and lasts through mid-March.
- The commitment is 1 practice and 1 game per week, both typically on the weekend. Usually, the program is fully located at Terry Connors Rink; however, it may also involve some travel to nearby towns.
- 6-year-olds who show ability and have the interest may be encouraged to join a "Mite C" team, which begins in late December / early January and is a feeder for Travel Hockey.
- Financial commitment tends to be approximately \$600-800 and includes all ice time, coaching, jersey, and socks (scholarship assistance is available based on demonstrated need).



- This level of hockey is for kids (and families) who show a high level of commitment to hockey.
- There is a tryout process every spring for teams that form in the fall. The season is early September through mid-March.
- Competitive levels are broken into age groups, as determined by birth year: Mites (7-8 years old); Squirts (9-10 years old); Pee Wees (11-12 years old); Bantams (13-14 years old); and Midgets (15-18 years old). Different skills are introduced at different ages. For example, Mites play on half sheets of ice; slap shots are allowed at the Pee Wee level and above; and checking begins at the Bantam level.
- There are typically two on-ice practices and two games per week, resulting in a schedule that includes as many as 60 games. Additional on-ice clinics and off-ice practices may be suggested or required. Away games may be in the next town over, or they may be 1.5 hours away. Teams typically play in 2-5 tournaments, ranging from local to 6 hours away (e.g., Lake Placid).
- Financial commitment tends to be approximately \$3000 (goalie tuition is half price), which includes all ice time, coaching, and socks (scholarship assistance is available based on demonstrated need). Lodging and food at tournaments is not included.
- Many kids play "spring hockey" and/or participate in hockey camps during the summer, though this is not necessary or required.
- Contrary to popular belief, it is never too late to begin playing travel hockey.