

Peewee and Bantam Co-op for 2012–2013 Season

As previously communicated, Shrewsbury Youth Hockey and the newly formed Lakers-Baystate-Griffin organization are combining forces at the Peewee and Bantam levels for the coming season. Both organizations are strongly aligned and believe that this co-op provides our players with the best possible hockey experience and skill development opportunities.

The main benefits from this co-op are:

- The ability to put together a 1 team at each level that will be competitive with most of the local AA and some AAA programs - at a much lower cost.
- Good parity within the teams at each level, making it easier for the coaches to develop a program that progresses all the skaters at an accelerated pace.
- Good parity within the NorthStar league with the ability to play at all levels within the league.
- The ability to pool practice ice to provide a more predicable practice schedule.

We are both entering into this co-op initially as a 1 year experiment, however if it proves to be a success, the intention is to continue with this merged organization at these levels in coming years.

This document attempts to answer some of the many questions that our memberships have had about this co-op.

Registration

- All players will register with their home organization. The regular registration rules for that organization will apply with respect to refund policy, deposit on next year etc.
- All players **must** be registered by Friday this week. Players who show up on the evening of tryouts will not be allowed to tryout (see next point)
- Due to the large number of players involved (potentially over 80 at each level), we will not be able to put everyone on the ice at the same time. Once we have final numbers on Friday evening, the players will be split into 3 groups and notified which tryout sessions they should show up for. Each player will participate in 2 sessions.

Evaluations and Placement process

- Both organizations are using the same external evaluator for tryouts at **all** levels next year.
- Tryouts will be run by Keith Hughes from Inside Edge Skating - <http://www.inside-edgeskating.com/images/bios.pdf>
- Evaluation processes have been aligned and are using the same blend of external evaluators and

coaches input in order to determine team placements.

- There will be 3 separate tryout sessions for each of the Peewee and Bantam levels. All players will participate in 2 of these sessions.
 - The Bantam Sessions will be on Monday 9th at 8:30pm, Wednesday 11th at 8:30pm and Thursday 12th at 8:30pm.
 - The Peewee Sessions will be on Monday 9th at 7:00pm, Wednesday 11th at 7:00pm and Friday 13th at 5:30pm (to be confirmed).
- Players will be evaluated using a mix of skills evaluation and game situation evaluation.
- Any players who are unable to make tryouts due to injury will automatically be placed on the lowest team and evaluated during the first few practices of the season in the fall. They will be moved up until they are placed on the correct team.
- Team placements will be determined by a tryout committee made up of equal representation of both organizations. The scores from the independent evaluators will be the primary measure used for team placement.

Coaches

- All teams will have coach representation from all organizations unless no suitable candidates are available.
- A coach selection committee will be formed made up of equal representation from both organizations
- Head coach selections will be made by selecting the best coach for the job at each level - independent of the organization to which the coach belongs.
- In the event that there are 2 or more equally qualified candidates for head coach, the selection will be made so as to balance the overall number of head coaches across both organizations

Team Name

- The decision on what these co-op teams will be called will be made after the evaluations. There are still a number of options under discussion.

Jerseys

- All skaters will require 2 new jerseys for home and away.
- Since the Lakers/Baystate organization is already purchasing new jerseys for their entire organization, there is an opportunity to cut costs by using the same jerseys for the co-op teams and benefiting from bulk purchasing.

- The proposal therefore is for the co-op teams to use these new jerseys.
- The identity of the combined teams (see Team Name above) will be represented on the jerseys through the use of a patch that is unique to these teams.
- Where possible, players will be allowed to keep their existing number, however it is expected that conflicts will arise. In this case, both players will be assigned a new number.
- The cost for 2 new jerseys is estimated to be around \$100. Half of the cost of this will be met by the parent organization for the player.

League and Playdowns

- All teams will participate in the NorthStar league only next year.
- There will be a guaranteed minimum of 27 games (including playoffs) in this league.
- All teams will automatically be entered in the playdowns. The cost of all games will be included in the tuition.

Disciplinary Issues

- Any issues that arise during the season with any player will be dealt with by the organization that the player comes from. The organizations regular process for dealing with such issues will be followed.

Practice Ice and Scheduling

- It is expected that since the largest percentage of the available ice will be at the Buffone rink, that the majority of practices will be at this rink.
- However some practices will be held at the Horgan rink in Auburn.
- Both organizations will contribute an amount of practice ice into the pool that reflects the percentage of overall players in the co-op.
- The intention is to continue with the policy from this year of giving all teams at least one fixed midweek practice each week - possibly allowing for more than 1 with the increased pool of available ice. It is likely that we will need to be creative with the ice allocation, we'll be able to provide more information once we know the final team numbers and more information regarding the plans and policy for the new rink at NorthStar.