

Dear SYHA,

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the President of Simsbury Youth Hockey for the upcoming year. I am excited about this opportunity and am committed to working hard on behalf of our parents and kids. I have a deep passion and love for the game of hockey and all it offers to our children. My father was one of the founding members of Simsbury Youth Hockey and my five brothers and I all played for Simsbury Youth hockey. I come from a large family; however our even larger hockey family has been such an important part of our lives growing up in Simsbury. I have been a board member for over ten years, serving recently as the Director of Coaching. My four children have all played for Simsbury Youth Hockey and I have been coaching multiple teams for the last fifteen years. It is both an honor and a privilege to be a part of the great tradition that is Simsbury Youth Hockey.

My first order of business is to publicly thank the outgoing members of our board for their commitment to our players and organization over the years. The contributions of Curt Palmer, Paul Simeon, Andy Filler, Tom Cross, Mike Anastasio, Gary Ierna, Russ Stone, Peter Klorer, and Perry Wilson have been vital to our success as an association and they will be missed.

Speaking of the [Board of Directors](#), I am very excited to work with such an outstanding group of volunteers - nine of whom are new to the board this year. We are extremely fortunate to have this group that is willing to give their knowledge, time and energy to serve our youth hockey community including players, parents, coaches and others. Though our youth hockey program continues to be one of the strongest in Connecticut, we continue to look for and find ways to make improvements where we can.

We have so much to be grateful for with our youth hockey program - supportive families and great coaching are at the core. What has made Simsbury Youth Hockey great over the past 45 years is the unwavering commitment to player development and teaching the team game in a fun and challenging environment. While many programs have shrunk or are gone, SYHA continues to be successful on the ice. We support nearly 250 players and over 15 boys and girls teams and continue to be financially sound, as well.

As in the past, we will continue to add value to our players and their families with things like power skating and Goalie clinics, summer on-ice sessions and more. Lastly, I would ask two things of all of you. First, we want and value your input. If you have an idea, an issue or a question, please feel free to contact me at melanson207@hotmail.com or any other board member. Second, please find a way to get involved. If you would like to help out with an SYHA event or committee or want to get involved on the Board, on the ice, or as a team manager, let us know. We are always looking to the future for good people to help make SYHA better than it is today.

I look forward to meeting you and to a successful 2017-18 hockey season for all of our teams.

Thank You,

Paul Melanson
SYHA President