



Dear Hockey Association Members,

The hockey season will soon come to a successful close. For some of you, it has already ended. The hockey “off-season” is a time when many of our families and kids take a much-needed break from hockey and concentrate on other things. But there are also families and players who elect to participate in off-season hockey leagues and/or skill development programs. These are non-WHA hockey programs like Showcase, Breakaway, or other summer camps. The purpose of this letter is to communicate the WHA’s stance on off-season activity, and to help clarify the opportunities available for your family or your skater. As you make your decisions on whether to participate in an off-season program, it’s important to understand the following items.

1. The WHA season generally follows the USA Hockey season guidelines. This means that the WHA-sponsored program runs from about October through March on any given year.
2. ***Off-season programming is not conducted or sponsored by the WHA.*** While many of our coaches, families, and players from the WHA choose to participate in various programs, the WHA is not the governing body and has no real jurisdiction over these activities.
3. Participation in off-season programs is encouraged, and any one of the WHA coaches can help you find a program or a camp that is suitable for your family and/or player. ***Participation in off season activities does not affect placement of players on a WHA team for the regular hockey season.***
4. For various spring/fall leagues, some WHA coaches do invite players to participate on their teams. This is done at the individual coach’s discretion, and is many times a reaction to families who have indicated an interest in a particular off-season program. Any parent or coach is welcome to form an off-season league team if they so desire. Again, the WHA encourages, but does not govern, this activity.
5. There is no right or wrong answer when it comes to off-season player development. Some coaches believe that individual skills training is best. Others believe that playing in a league is more appropriate. But many believe that a break from hockey is even more critical. The WHA encourages participation in other sports as well.

If you would like more information on non-WHA programs for off-season skill development, you may contact your player’s coach directly. There is a page on the WHA web site at www.waconiahockey.com that will provide links or information on various off-season programs of which we’re aware. If you have questions or concerns about the WHA and its role in governing off-season programs please contact a member of the WHA Board.

Thanks for your support of Waconia Hockey.

Go Wildcats!