

THE FACTCAT

October 2010

Inside This Issue

Welcome Back	1
What Happens Now?	2
Game Day 2010	3
Ice Chips: Tidbits of Info	4
Problem Resolution	5
NYHA Policies	5
Learn to Play Hockey	5
2010-2011 Team Line Up	6
ACE Reminder	6
SpiritWear	1
Kroger/Hiller	4
Locker Room Etiquette	4

Novi Youth Hockey Association

42400 Arena Drive
Novi, MI 48375
248-735-0393

E-mail:
info@noviyouthhockey.org

Web site:
www.noviyouthhockey.org

Angela Petty
Program Administrator

NYHA Office Hours

Wednesdays: 6-9pm
Saturdays: 9am-12pm

Mailboxes for every team and all NYHA Board members are found on the main level next to the Blue Rink windows.

Welcome Back

Here we go again – from Bob DeSpirt, President NYHA

Welcome back to all our past members and hello to our new members. The Board has been working very hard during the off season to get ready.

With the economy in Michigan, we were not sure what the season would bring. I am happy to report that for the 2010-2011 season, we will have 40 teams, the same as last year, but our actual number of members will be down slightly from the prior season with many teams not full.

Many of us like to say that the NYHA has become a destination of choice rather than an alternative. This is a result of the strengths of our Association and we all work very hard to make the NYHA one of the premier associations. The team coaches and team managers are the backbone of our Association. Take a minute to thank them for their time; it is a long season.

We have one of the best websites in the industry. Check it out. Spend some time on the Parents page and the FAQ/Why page. The FAQ/Why page has a break down of many of the questions we hear and we have attempted to provide a response- ice scheduling, financial accountability, buzzer hockey, cross ice hockey, the house draft, etc. This is your Association and we always like to hear what you would like to see implemented and what you like about the NYHA. See you in the rink.

**GET YOUR
BLACK AND RED ON!!!**

SpiritWear Sales

Some of you may have already noticed that on Friday nights 5:00pm until 8:00pm and on Saturdays 11:00am until 3:00pm we are selling Novi SpiritWear at the Novi Ice Arena. We will be honoring these hours through the Christmas holidays. We have a large selection of sweatshirts, hats, window decals, t shirts and jackets. Cash and major credit cards are accepted. Do visit us and see for yourself.



What Happens Now?

For families that are new to hockey or to the NYHA, we would like to provide them with an overview of what they can expect throughout the season.

All Players

A Team Meeting: All NYHA coaches are required to hold a team meeting with parents and players early in the season. Some topics that will be covered include introduction of the team staff, coaching philosophy, parent and player responsibilities, team discipline, and registration paperwork. Ask questions. Don't be afraid to ask questions past the meeting.

Schedule Overview: NYHA travel teams begin their season in August and house teams in late August and continue to the end of March. League games begin in late September for Travel Teams and early October for House Teams.

Fair Ice Time: The NYHA requires all House coaches to adhere to the rule of 'Fair Ice Time'. All players must have the same opportunity at ice time in games and practices. Bench-shortening is not acceptable. Ice time may be withheld for disciplinary reasons, but never for ability.

End of Season House Tournament: All age groups, with the exception of Midget BB, participate in an in-house NYHA tournament. This is a double-elimination competition that runs throughout the month of March.

Financials: Additional expenses incurred by the team are the responsibility of the team members and are not paid by the Association. These may include charges such as tournament registrations, hotel lodging, spirit wear, and social activities. Managers are required to distribute a monthly financial statement to all team members and file a copy with the NYHA Treasurer.

Association Survey: At the conclusion of the season, the Association conducts an electronic survey of all members to assess their satisfaction with their team and overall experience with the NYHA. Results are provided to the coaches and are reviewed by the NYHA Board of Directors.

House Mini-Mites and Mites 2002-2005 Birth Years

These age groups compete in the I-275 League, which consists of teams from Novi, Livonia, Plymouth, Canton, Farmington Hills, and Compuware. Some teams may also participate in a tournament, either local or out-of-town, at the team's discretion.

Mini-Mite games are usually played on Sundays and are cross-ice 3-on-3 format. No scores are kept and there is a strong emphasis on fun and skill development. By MAHA rule, Mini Mites are not allowed to play full-ice games. Mite games are usually played on Saturdays and are full-ice games. Scores are kept, but no standings are compiled.

House Squirts, Pee Wees, Bantams, and Midgets

League Play: These age groups compete in the Little Caesar's Amateur Hockey League (LCAHL). Games may be played against teams such as Farmington Hills, Chelsea, Plymouth, Detroit, Garden City, Westland, and Howell.

Travel

All travel teams play in the LCAHL. Additional information about the LCAHL is available at: www.lcahl.pucksystems2.com.

All Players

Tournaments: Most teams will participate in at least one tournament at an out-of-town venue, at their discretion. Some popular locations are Holland, Cleveland, and Grand Rapids. Teams may also compete in local tournaments, at their discretion.

District/State Tournament: Squirt and above teams may also participate in the MAHA District and State Tournament. The NYHA may send up to two teams from each age group to this tournament. House teams are selected based on LCAHL regular-season standings. Your coach will inform you sometime in December on the possibility of your team's participation in these tournaments. All travel squirt and above teams participate.

General Information

Get Involved: You and your child will have a much better experience if you get actively involved with the team or the Association. Volunteer to organize a team outing, host a party (in addition to player parties, some teams also have a party for the adults), run the scoreboard or the penalty boxes, or help with a team website. Don't wait for the coach or manager to come and ask you to volunteer -- take the initiative to contact them and ask where they could use assistance or to politely suggest your own ideas for volunteering. The team and the Association can only succeed through the dedication and efforts of its members.

Have Fun: Relax and enjoy. It's just a game. The kids are here to have fun, improve their hockey skills, get some exercise, and to learn sportsmanship and life lessons. All of these can be accomplished regardless of the team's win/loss record. Provide positive support to your child, the team staff, the officials, and the opponents.

Learn: If you are seeking instructional information regarding the game of hockey, including rules and equipment, an excellent source is the USA Hockey Come Play Youth Hockey web portal, which is linked from the Parents section of the NYHA website.

More questions?: Do not hesitate to contact your team coach or team manager if you have any questions regarding your child's team or the NYHA. The Association website also has helpful information for parents and players. The FAQ/Why pages provide answers to the most commonly asked questions including 6:00 am and 5:00 pm practices and the rotating ice schedule.



Novi Game Day 2010!

Mark your calendars! The NYHA 9th Annual Game Day is Saturday, November 6th

Yes! It's that time of year again. The much anticipated Novi Game Day is right around the corner. Those that are new to the NYHA are in for a treat, and our returning families are well aware of this very special day on the hockey calendar.

House teams will play fellow house teams, with everyone skating hard at the drop of the puck. After all, bragging rites are at stake! Travel teams also participate by inviting an opponent from another association. Here's a sneak peek at what you can look forward to:

- All games will have music and an announcer between the play.
- A 'Mom's Score-O' event before each game with 3 moms from each team competing - and yes, their goals count for their team's game.
- A digital sport photographer will be on-site offering action shots for sale.
- NYHA hats, coats, and clothing will be available for purchase. (Think Holiday shopping...)
- Lunch will be provided for every player.
- The famed 50-50 Puck Toss!
- Silent auction items.
- Team fundraising sales.
- Many more surprises!

Novi Game Day is held to enable players and families to celebrate the "coolest game on earth!". No other youth hockey association celebrates the way we do here at the NYHA. Year after year the NYHA players look forward to this fun-filled event. Come early and stay late...Game Day has lots to offer on and off the ice for the whole family.

So come on out...wear your black and red with pride! Heck, if you want to make a day of it...last year several teams had a day long tailgate in the parking lot! Yes...it's that cool.

Watch for more news on the Web site! See you at the rink on November 6th!

Web sites To Bookmark

Novi Youth Hockey Association
www.noviyouthhockey.org

Little Caesars League
www.lcahl.pucksystem2.com

USA Hockey
www.usahockey.com

Michigan Amateur Hockey Association
www.maha.org

Arena Maps
www.arenamaps.com

Novi Ice Arena
www.noviicearena.com

SHOW YOUR SPIRIT

The NYHA has car stickers for sale!

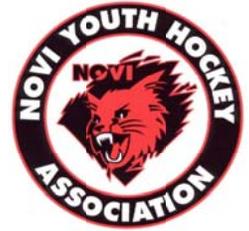


NYHA window stickers are
\$5.00 each

Visit the NYHA Office

ICE CHIPS

Little tidbits of great information!



Final Dues for House and Travel

Final dues were established at the October Board Meeting and are posted on the NYHA website.

Is Your Team Using Professional Coaches?

The NYHA offers training dollars to each House Mini-Mite to Bantam team for hiring recommended trainers for skills building such as power skating, individual and team skills, goalie techniques, and various other player improvement offerings. Please ask your coach if he has classes planned for your team; it makes for fun and exciting practices.

NYHA Players Earn Over \$10,000 in Credits from Kroger & Hillers Programs

153 different NYHA players earned a total of more than \$10,000 worth of credits toward their 2010–2011 ice dues just by shopping at their neighborhood Kroger or Hillers store last year. The top NYHA player earned enough credits to cover 46% of their ice dues! How did they do it, you ask? They simply asked their family and friends that already shopped at Kroger and Hillers to sign up through the NYHA to direct a portion of the dollars they spent in these stores back to the NYHA as part of the charitable giving programs generously offered by these two organizations. How much did you earn this past year? Check out the Kroger-Hillers link on the NYHA homepage at www.noviyouthhockey.org to learn more about these programs and start earning credits toward the 2011-12 hockey season now.

Are you getting NYHA e-mails?

Have you been receiving NYHA e-mail updates? If not, it may just be a simple matter of adding the NYHA to your contact list. To ensure that you receive important news and special announcements from the Novi Youth Hockey Association, please add the following e-mail address to your Address Book or e-mail contacts list: info@noviyouthhockey.org Please note that some Internet Service Providers (ISPs) such as Comcast, Wide Open West, and Time Warner can block e-mails from the NYHA.

Cell Phones

Players should not have cell phones in the locker room. Beginning in the 2011-2012 season, by USA Hockey rule, cell phones will be banned from locker rooms.

Fairness of Ice Time

Every year the NYHA gets questions and comments from parents and coaches regarding this issue. Here's where the Association stands. For all teams in the House Program, the practice of "bench shortening" in games, league, playoff, or tournaments, is not acceptable in the NYHA. All players present should receive a 'fair share' of ice time. It is however, recognized that in some rare instances, this policy may be modified, due to unique game situations. Head coaches have been encouraged to review this policy with parents in a team meeting at the beginning of the season.

House coaches can determine policies unique to their team. It is encouraged that these policies be in writing and distributed to parents and players at a team meeting early in the season. For example, a coach may tie game time to participation in practices, HOWEVER, the "fairness of ice time" doctrine, must not be completely set aside (i.e.: a team could establish a policy that players would sit a portion of a game for continued missed practices or for disciplinary concerns). All policies need to be enforced equally for all on the team.

Parental Supervision

It's a long season and while the players are at practice, it's nice to run off and run a few errands. Please be sure that the coaches and/or your team manager at the rink have contact information for you while you are away. It's not unusual to have an injury occur in the game of hockey! If your player gets hurt, don't you want to be there? Please help your coaches help you!

Locker Room Etiquette

Under USA Hockey's Bylaws (Policies on Physical & Sexual Abuse); "It is unacceptable for members to be observing the opposite gender while they dress or undress. Members and volunteers who violate USA Hockey's policies, or who violate the privacy rights of others, could be subject to appropriate discipline." The NYHA will be soon rolling out criteria for teams of mixed gender.

NYHA Policies: Protective Gear and Student Coaches

The only people allowed on the ice during practice are those players rostered to the team and coaches. Having others on the ice invalidates the USA Hockey insurance and puts the head coach at risk for disciplinary action. 'Students' are allowed on the ice that have completed the 'Student Coaching Clinic' conducted by MAHA D4.

Guest 'instructors' on the ice with teams must wear helmets. If your team has some one come to your practice to work with your team and they are on the ice, they must have a helmet. This includes, coaches, specialty coaches, guest instructors, trainers, helpers, etc. Unfortunately, failure to follow this policy puts the head coach at risk for disciplinary action. Rink personal will ask those not following this policy to leave the ice. Both of these are USA Hockey rules and are not negotiable.

It is the policy of the Novi Youth Hockey Association that every player and goalie, in every division, is required to wear a neck guard (or a throat/neck shield for goalies) and a mouth guard during all practices and all games, whether at the Novi Ice Arena, or any other arena/rink. Neck guards and mouth guards are to be worn properly during all ice time. Mouth guards dangling out of the player's helmet are not acceptable. Safety for the players and goalies is of the utmost importance. It is the responsibility of each coach to insure that his/her players have the required equipment prior to all practices and games. It is the responsibility of each player's parents/guardians to insure that the required equipment is used correctly during all ice time.

NYHA Mission Statement

The NYHA Organization is committed to cultivating and developing youths in the sport of Ice Hockey. This is achieved through dedicated volunteers teaching and improving hockey skills in an atmosphere that promotes good sportsmanship. This model provides each and every person within the Novi Youth Hockey Association, the opportunity to learn, grow and enjoy the game of hockey.

Problem Resolution

At the NYHA, we have a well-honed process for resolving concerns. We strongly encourage members to follow the proper procedures if there is a concern.

If a member encounters a problem in the NYHA program, we strongly suggest that each concern be documented in writing at each stage of review. First discuss the problem with your coach. If the coach cannot resolve the problem, or it involves the coach, then the member should discuss the problem with the House Division Governor or Travel Director. These individuals are all identified on the NYHA website.

The House Division Governor/Travel Director will talk to the parties involved, gather information, and make a decision. For the House program, if the member is not satisfied, they can appeal to the House Director; then the Grievance Committee; then the Board. For the Travel program, if the member is not satisfied, they can appeal to the Grievance Committee; then the Board.

Learn to Play Hockey Program

Know anyone interested in giving the game a try? The NYHA in conjunction with Tim Horton's is proud to bring our youngest hockey players this great program. Tim Horton's provides a jersey for each student. Consider this the next step after players have completed a learn to skate program.

The NYHA is proud to announce Dave Roberts will return as head instructor. Dave is an NHL veteran.

The focus is the fundamentals of skating and puck skills. The class is open to players ranging in age from 4 to 8. Players will be divided according to age and skill level. There are two sessions offered. All skates are on Tuesdays in the early evening hours. The first session ends on December 21st for a total of 16 skates and the second session begins January 4th and ends March 29th for a total of 13 skates. You are able to join the first session "in process." Contact the office to enroll!

Visit our website at www.noviyouthhockey.org for more information and to register.

The NYHA 2010-2011 Team Line-Up

Mini Mite Division

Governor: Todd Martin

#	<u>Head Coach</u>	<u>Team Name</u>
1	Jeff Wollschlager	Lynx
2	Pete Woods	Pumas
3	Matt Handyside	Thundercats

Mite Division

Governor: Todd Martin

#	<u>Head Coach</u>	<u>Team Name</u>
1	Mark Berke	Thundercats
2	Jeff Mitchell	Predators
3	Paul Heirtzler	Wildcats
4	Jim Allen	Tigers
5	Brian Zahra	Catamounts

Squirt Division

Governor: Dave Bagnasco

#	<u>Head Coach</u>	<u>Team Name</u>
1	Darrin Hands	Battlecats
2	Dave Wilson	Wildcats
3	Erik Stone	Sabercats
4	Danny McColl	Thundercats
5	Tim Manning	Cougars
6	Pat Coutts	Tigers
7	Pete Finn	Predators
8	Gary Smith	Pumas

PeeWee Division

Governor: Mark Kubitskey

#	<u>Head Coach</u>	<u>Team Name</u>
1	John Henehan	Snowcats
2	Joe Vig	Predators
3	Dave Katz	Jaguars
4	Bret Holman	Panthers
5	Todd Manning	Wildcats
6	Dave Bagnasco	Firecats
7	Terry Crawford	Sabres

Bantam Division

Governor: Tim Manning

#	<u>Head Coach</u>	<u>Team Name</u>
1	Scott Lanam	Panthers
2	Tom Malarkey	Jaguars
3	Joe Hamway	Cougars
4	Chris Steffes	Wildcats
5	Terry Manning	Bobcats
6	Mark Pogoda	Polarcats

Midget Division

Governor: Mark Berke

	<u>Head Coach</u>	<u>Team Name</u>
B-1	Tim Fortier	Jaguars
B-2	Rob Massard	Predators
BB	Mark Kubitskey	Sabercat

NYHA ICE CATS TRAVEL

<u>Team</u>	<u>Head Coach</u>
2003 Mite A	Todd Martin
2002 Mite AA	Brain Beaufait
2001 Squirt A	Paul VanAntwerp
2000 Squirt AA	Kevin Galin
1999 Pee Wee A	Harry Youmans
1998 Pee Wee AA	Wade Stevenson
1997 Bantam A	Dave Roberts
1996 Bantam AA	Dave Flack

The NYHA 2010-2011 Board of Directors

The NYHA Board consists of the following elected volunteers:

Bob DeSpirt <i>(President)</i>	Todd Martin Stacey Cerroni
Mark Berke <i>(Vice President)</i>	Vince Lorelli Dave Mueller
Chris Mitchell <i>(Executive Treasurer)</i>	Joy Orlich Harry Youmans
Jeannine Makowski <i>(Associate Treasurer)</i>	Scott Novell Dijana Trajkovski

A Note from your ACE Coordinator...

Just a reminder that if a coach has not met his/her certificate requirements by December 31, they will be removed from the roster and unable to be on the ice (including practices). This includes the head coach and assistants as well. If you are at all unclear about the requirements or how to meet them, please contact Stacey Cerroni, the Association's ACE coordinator.