



Dear Chicago Hawks Hockey Families,

I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer and enjoying it with their families. Summer, though, will fly by very quickly and before we know it fall hockey will be upon us!

Since assuming the position of Board President on April 1, 2011, I've made it my personal goal to enhance our club, wherever necessary, to ensure the continued enjoyment and development of all here at the Chicago Hawks Hockey Club. I am honored to work with the volunteer members of the Chicago Hawks Board, Hockey Director Kyle Kotrba and Assistant Hockey Director Mike Bloome. These individuals are all truly dedicated to the Chicago Hawks players and families.

We have been meeting all summer to solidify plans for the club. Safety, measurable skills development, accelerated program offerings and club communication have been major focus points. Here are a few topics of interest we're working on rolling out in the fall:

- **CS & NIHL Skills Night Monday** – A revamped Power Skate night combining off-ice dry land training with on-ice training instruction utilizing one of the best power skaters in the country, Yevgeny Martynov (Skating for Hockey Agility).
- **Shooting Tunnels** – Two new shooting tunnels in field house for training.
- **Performance Training** – Balance, Core Strength and Stability, Reactive training, SAQ training, Strength and Power (Functional Athlete)
- **Enhanced Skills Conditioning Offering** – Augmenting our Hawks conditioning program by offering an optional, accelerated skills/stick-handling camp instructed by Sean Skinner (Skinner Hockey Instruction).
- **IMPACT Baseline Testing** – Baseline pre-concussion, cognitive testing will be offered for age-appropriate members.
- **Skills Progression Criteria** – Implementation and tracking of USA Hockey guidelines to measure skills development.
- **Improved Goalie Clinics** – Consistent shooters, instruction and stations.
- **Website Development** – Improved site design, content and function.

There are two important changes for the upcoming 2011-2012 fall hockey season. First, the Chicago Hawks will require **red pants (or shells) and red helmets** for players on all teams (excluding In House and goalies) as it is important for our teams to be uniform in dress. The deadline for this requirement is 10/1/2011. Second, a change for most of us this fall will come as a result of USA Hockey's Board of Directors overwhelmingly passing all aspects of the Progressive Checking Skill Development Program during its 2011 Annual Congress. The program **delays body checking to the Bantam level and encourages more body contact in the pre-body checking age categories.** Enhanced training and support for coaches and referees



will be a provided component. As club parents we, too, will be re-learning our view of the game from the stands!

Lastly, please make note of these important upcoming dates:

Important Chicago Hawks Dates:

- Fall Conditioning: August 21-31, 2011
- Fall CSDHL & NIHL Evaluations/Tryouts: Begin September 1, 2011
- Fall NWHL Evaluation: Begin September 9, 2011
- Hawksfest: September 17, 2011 - Welcome back BBQ @ Darien Sportsplex
- Hawks Hosted Chicago Steel Game: September 17, 2011 @ Darien Sportsplex
- Frozen Fright Tournament: October 7-10, 2011 - Silver Mites, Mites & Squirts
- Octoberfest: October 22, 2011 – Parent Event @ TBD location
- Silver Sticks Tournament: November 23-27, 2011 @ Darien Sportsplex
- Hawks Weekend: December 3-4, 2011 @ Darien Sportsplex
- NIHL Championship Weekends: March 2-4 (Elite/Gold) & March 9-11, 2012 @ TBD

Please continue to check our site for upcoming events and news. Our goal is to have Fall Registrations active on the website by **August 1st** as well as the fall coaching lists with bios.

We look forward to seeing everyone in the fall. As always, we thank you for supporting the Chicago Hawks Hockey Club!

Regards,

Greg Walch

Greg Walch
President
Chicago Hawks Hockey Club

Web links for additional information:

Chicago Hawks Newsletter –

<http://www.chicagohawks.com/page/show/46538-newsletter>

Chicago Hawks Equipment Announcement -

http://www.chicagohawks.com/news_article/show/96870?referrer_id=46097



USA Hockey Progressive Checking Skill Development Program -
http://www.usahockey.com//Template_Usahockey.aspx?NAV=ET_03&ID=299508