

MYHA Newsletter

November 2011



Greetings Hockey Lovers!!

Most returning skaters have been on the ice for at least a couple weeks and our newest skaters will be out there very soon. There's a lot of excitement in the air as our seasons get under way!! Check this newsletter for various events and important announcements. See you at the rink!!

Kevin Miller

Team Rep Coordinator

McFarland Youth Hockey Association

DROP THE PUCK at the MYHA OPENING FACEOFF - November 11, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

The MYHA Board is extremely excited about our upcoming **Opening Faceoff** event. We really hope all our players and their families can come and enjoy the festivities. There will be **goodies** for all the players, **free refreshments** for all families, **tours of the rink**, information about various **volunteer hour** and **fund raising opportunities**, and an **open skate** session for everyone.

The **Opening Faceoff** will run from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Friday, November 11. There is a U8 practice that night from 5:45 to 6:45, so U8 parents can meet our board members and other families, tour the rink, and **learn more about MYHA** while the kids are practicing. The **Open Skate** will run from 7:00 to 8:00. And our McFarland Squirt 1 team has a game at 8:15 for those who want to stick around. It would be great to have a large crowd showing support for these great players.

Which team will have the greatest attendance at the **Opening Faceoff**? Will the **U8** and **Squirts** beat the **Pee Wees** and **Bantams**? Or could we have a six way tie with **100% participation** by all teams? **We really hope to see you all there!!**

OPENING FACEOFF VOLUNTEERS

We could use a few volunteers to help out with the Opening Faceoff. If you are willing to help, please contact Chris Olson at olson.cp@gmail.com or Kevin Miller at kevinmiller2000@hotmail.com.

LEARN TO SKATE STARTING SOON!!

The MYHA Learn to Skate program for new skaters age four and up will be gearing up - literally - next week. Registration for Learn to Skate will take place on November 1 and 9 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the McFarland Community Ice Arena. Players can also get equipment at that time. MYHA will supply all equipment needed except for skates, though you are welcome to use your own equipment as well.

The first on-ice session will take place on Wednesday, November 16. All Learn to Skate sessions take place on Wednesdays from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Players who can't get to the registration sessions above can register and draw equipment at one of the on-ice sessions. If you have any questions about Learn to Skate, contact Joe Mazarra at 608-712-7089 or Troy Sjodin at 608-235-7486.

WREATH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Just prior to Thanksgiving, the wreaths that were ordered will be delivered to the rink for distribution to those who sold them. Volunteers are needed each night to hand out the ordered items (this will count toward volunteer hours). A volunteer sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board outside the concession stand or contact Steve Newcomer (snewks@charter.net or 838-4440) to see what times are still available; we are hoping for a few people from each team. Contact Steve if you have any questions.

GOALIE CLINIC AVAILABLE FOR MYHA MEMBERS

Current MYHA goalies and younger skaters interested in learning to play goalie can attend the Goalie Clinics held every Sunday evening at the Oregon Community Sports Arena. MYHA has covered the cost for anyone from our association who would like to attend. The sessions run from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. for first year Pee Wee and younger and 6:15 to 7:15 for second year Pee Wee and older. Just let them know you skate for McFarland and you won't be charged. You can attend as many or as few sessions as you like. The sessions will run through March with a few Sundays off for holidays. For more information, contact Kevin Miller at kevinmiller2000@hotmail.com.

CONCUSSION BASELINE IMPACT TESTING

The risk associated with head injuries has been big news the last couple years. Research shows numerous long-term consequences of concussions. Bantam parent Deb Jenks has arranged to do baseline impact testing of any MYHA player 11 and over for \$15. This testing provides a comparison from which a concussion determination can be made following a head injury. Without the baseline, tests for a possible concussion must be compared to norms for a given age, which is much less accurate. If you are interested in scheduling the baseline test, call Dean Sports Medicine at 294-6090. If you have questions or would like to set up group times for a team or multiple players, contact Deb at 608-212-8398 (work cell) or deb.jenks@deancare.com. Deb could also arrange an educational session on concussions if there is interest. Let your team rep know if you would like such a session offered.

CHUCK-A-PUCK COMING SOON - WITH YOUTH TEAM INTROS!!

With the start of the high school hockey season comes the start of our MYHA Chuck-A-Puck fundraiser. This is both a fun way to raise a little extra money for our association and a means of getting visibility of our youth teams. As a means of upping that visibility, this year each youth team will be introduced during the games they are working. Each team will be expected to help at two high school games - one on their own and one shared with another team. More information will reach you through your team reps in the next couple weeks.

CONDUCT AND LOCKER ROOM REMINDERS

There has been an increasing emphasis placed on appropriate conduct by everyone involved with youth sports. Toward that end, MYHA adopted a new Parent Code of Conduct that all parents will need to sign (if you haven't done so already). The goal of the Code of Conduct and other changes over the past couple years is to ensure we emphasize skill development, teamwork, and fun while reducing those

things that can detract from these things. The MYHA Board is asking players, coaches, parents, and other hockey supporters to emphasize the positives in all that they do - especially during any team activities including games and practices.

There are two specific policies we want to reinforce. The first is keeping all electronic devices out of sight in locker rooms. Primarily, we don't want anyone worrying that a camera is in use in the locker room. With so many devices now having built in cameras, most should just be kept away until out of the locker room. The second is that USA Hockey and WAHA policies require that two adults be present in any locker room when players are present. The only exception is when there is one player with his or her parent. Teams should make sure all parents are aware of this rule and strive to enforce it. When in the locker room, parents should, again, encourage positive and discourage negative conduct, language, and conversations. Help players learn that being positive - about teammates, officials, and opponents - is the only option in public settings (and hopefully elsewhere, too).

CHECK WEBSITE FOR PAST NEWSLETTERS AND OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The MYHA newsletters will be posted on the MYHA website (www.mcfarlandhockey.org, [News](#)) along with other important information. This is our third issue, but the prior issues covered topics such as the new ADM Mite Program, MYHA Volunteer Needs, association funding structure and much more.

MYHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The MYHA Board of Directors consists of the parents of MYHA players elected during our Spring Meeting. We are all available points of contact for any questions or concerns you may have about anything related to MYHA. None of us has all the answers, but we can help you connect with the right person or bring concerns to the board. Please don't hesitate to contact one or more of us when you need something. Our contact information is also on the MYHA website (www.mcfarlandhockey.org).

Here is the current MYHA Board of Directors:

- Troy Sjodin (President) - 608-838-8401, troy.sjodin@avid.com
- Danita Lehnerr (Vice President, Fundraising Dir.) - 608-235-7127, dlehnerr@frontier.com
- Maria Bartzen (Treasurer), 608-332-6213, 4bartz@frontier.com
- Sheila McGinn (Secretary), 608-838-0561, srmcginn@charter.net
- Chris Olson, olson.cp@gmail.com
- Dean Gille, 608-212-6288, deang@bgsinc.com
- Joe Mazzara (Learn to Skate Coordinator), 608-838-7088, jlmazzara@charter.net
- Jared Redders (ACE Coordinator), 608-838-1212, jared_redders@mcfarland.k12.wi.us
- Kevin Miller (Team Rep Coordinator), 608-838-2453, kevinmiller2000@hotmail.com
- Steve Newcomer (Wreath Sales Coordinator), snewks@charter.net
- Kristi McShane, 608-838-3213, krmcshane@gmail.com
- Rob Dechambeau (U8 Coordinator), rdtinner@hotmail.com

"It's a great day for hockey!!" Bob Johnson