



Volume 1, Issue 6

January 2012

FROM THE FRONT OFFICE

Happy New Year from the KVHA Board

Happy New Year to everyone! It was a busy 2011 for all of us, and considering we are already in the middle of the hockey season, we know 2012 will ring in much of the same. All of our teams have played many games by now and some have even begun attending tournaments. And from what we've heard, the kids are having FUN!

Association Bylaws

During the month of December our board focused on rewriting our association bylaws. Much effort and research has been invested in reviewing other association's bylaws and determining how we can align our operations to keep our membership's needs in mind! Hopefully you were able to participate in our short survey on what a board member's profile should look like. The results of the survey were as follows:

A voting member of the board of directors could be someone with another relationship with the

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VIEW FROM CENTER ICE

IN THE HOUSE

Mini-Mite Update

This year we have introduced the use of the cross-ice divider panels at mid ice to improve the appearance of the game. Parents seem to be happier with this improvement and like having the kids on the bench instead of them sitting on the bumper pads at mid ice. The boards keep the puck in play more and rotating the kids by shifts are easier to manage. Most importantly the kids feel like they are playing a real game.

The coaches are seeing a big difference with the development of our young mini-mite stars. In the beginning of the season we opted not to keep score, at first only because we didn't know how to keep score of two games at the same time. This may have been the luckiest accident that could have happened. With not having to worry about win-loss records, the emphasis switched to skill development and FUN.

The first thing that we learned about half ice at this age is that there will be a lot of goal scoring. We even worried about our goalies at first. We were afraid that they may get upset at giving up so many goals. However, with nothing on the scoreboard and with the other goalies giving up 10, 12 or 15 goals a game as well, nobody appeared to care. It's just a game. Now, some players will always know the score. The big difference is that many of the parents and some of the coaches won't. The score and who

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Board Meeting

January 16

7:00 - 9:00 PM

Kensington Valley Ice House

MAHA Annual Winter Meeting

January 20-21

Southgate Holiday Inn

Try Hockey for Free Clinics

January 21 - Dearborn, MI, Time: TBD

Dearborn Ice Skating Arena

January 28 - Canton, MI, 11:30-12:30

Arctic Edge Ice Arena

February 4 - Plymouth, MI

Plymouth Cultural Center, 1:30-2:30

February 18 - Detroit, MI

Joe Louis Arena, 9:00-10:00 & 10:00 - 11:00

For registration and additional dates & locations, see MAHA website [here](#)

CEP Level 4 Clinic

March 1-18 - Detroit, MI

Compuware World Headquarters - Downtown

See USA Hockey website [here](#) for registration

association, i.e. a coach, team manager, grandparent, office assistant, etc. – **131 votes**

A voting member of the board of the directors should have a child in the association – **126 votes**

We ended up combining the language of both questions and you can find the final version of the bylaws on the Board of Directors web page [here](#).

Board of Directors Elections

Elections will be held for open Board positions at the end of the season. If you are interested in running for a voting position on board, or even volunteering your services as a special appointee,

please look for an announcement within the next few weeks for application submission.

Mid-Season Coaching Evaluations

Please remember to fill out the mid-season evaluations for our coaches. This is an important tool for not only developing our current coaches but for selecting our future coaching staff. Here is the link to fill out the [evaluations for your coach](#):

Positive Role Models

Hockey is one of the great American pastimes! We know many of you share a passion for this great game, which is why we would like to remind all members to be mindful again this season that “respect” is an integral part of the game. It is not only critical for all of us to lead by example and be a positive role model, but we must also continue teaching our players the essence of respect. It is important for parents and players alike to respect their opponents, teammates, volunteers, parents, coaches and referees. This value is at the core of this great sport.

With that said, the KVHA Board of Directors and Staff wish everyone best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year!



Total Roller Hockey - Winter Youth 2012

Do you have a child that would like to try hockey without the ice?, then register for Total Roller Hockey at Total Sports in Novi. Winter beginner classes for 6 and under run Saturdays starting January 14th. Cost is \$110 for ten 50 minute classes. See Total Sports Website [here](#) for more information and registration.

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wins or loses is no longer a big deal. It's playing their game and having FUN that matters now.



Coach Brian Mulchay giving instruction to his Mini-Mite players

- Hockey sense, or understanding the principles of the game, is being developed at a young age.
- There are no unnecessary breaks in the game (i.e. off-sides, icing).



Sean McLaren working the dividers during a half-ice game

Benefits of Cross Ice GAME

- Playing on a smaller rink results in increased puck possession time for each player.
- Individual technical skills develop more quickly.
- More frequent line changes in the game means more ice time for each player.
- Line changes are made quickly since the players are directly beside the playing surface.
- Each player's activity increases greatly.
- Scoring skills are enhanced since the players have more shooting opportunities.
- The goalkeeper's reading of the game and reaction to changing game situations become more effective.
- More repetition for goalkeepers.
- The game is full of continuously changing situations.
- The speed in playing situations increase, which will require quicker mental and physical reactions by the players.
- Due to increased tempo, all of the team members take part in solving the playing situations, which leads to a sharing of responsibilities between players.
- The feeling of being an important part of the action increases because of the small size of the rink.

VIEW FROM THE BLEACHERS

Where Do I Play?

(Trying to make sense of hockey language)

By Mike Wainwright

One of the most confusing things in the great sport of hockey is understanding the nomenclature. For new comers, I'm sure they wonder; is a Squirt bigger than a Mite? Isn't a Midget smaller than them all? Clearly, our hockey forefathers came up with this in a pub!

What's worse is trying to match the level of play with our hockey loving Canadian neighbors in the north! I've been to many a tournament where somebody didn't quite get it - or just wanted the experience of getting pounded on.

Introduce gender (boys & girls use different terms you know) and most people just check out of the conversation as fast as they can. My daughter for example is both a Squirt, an O2', a 10U, a Tier 2 and AA. This year!! That all changes next year. Ask her and she just plays for the Ravens. I don't blame her.

To try and make some sense of it all, let's start with a simple chart (see chart below)

Confused yet? One fairly easy distinction in the language saga is Travel versus House. (Also known as Rec or B)

Kids move up in house/Rec levels by USA classification of Mini Mite to Mite to Squirt to PeeWee to Bantam. They are all in two year increments as you can see from the chart. Travel players are "typically" defined by their birth year.

Our 2000 Rebels for example are mainly made up of kids born in 2000 with an exceptional 2001 on the team. This group would also be referred to as PeeWee A in the 2011 season. In 2012, they would be PeeWee AA. All under the tier 2 (travel) designation.

There are always plenty of folks to lean on at the rink that can help you through the mess. Maybe USA Hockey will have an "Ah Ha" moment and fall in line with other sports and simply move to 8U, 10U, 12U, etc. But then, what fun would that be?

USA Hockey Level	Age at Start of Season	House/Rec	Birth Year	Tier 2 (A & AA)	Tier 3 (AAA)	Girls (House/Travel)
MINI MITE	5	First Year	2006	N/A	N/A	
	6	Second Year	2005	N/A	N/A	
MITE	7	First Year	2004	MITE A	N/A	8U
	8	Second Year	2003	MITE AA	N/A	
SQUIRT	9	First Year	2002	SQUIRT A	N/A	10U
	10	Second Year	2001	SQUIRT AA	N/A	
PEEWEE	11	First Year	2000	PEEWEE A	PEEWEE AAA	12U
	12	Second Year	1999	PEEWEE AA		
BANTAM	13	First Year	1998	BANTAM A	BANTAM AAA	14U
	14	Second Year	1997	BANTAM AA		

OFF THE BENCH

Golden Rules for Goalies

from John Russo's Coaches Corner

My Golden Rules for defensemen and for forwards began many years ago, although each gets some fine tuning occasionally, it didn't take long to figure out that it was appropriate to have Golden Rules for goaltenders, too. It is interesting to note that several of the rules are the same or similar to those for defensemen and forwards.

These are items that coaches should be using to teach goalies and to monitor their progress. They are things that players should strive to master as

they progress up through the youth ranks and on to high school, juniors or college.

1. Stay alert at all times, no matter where the puck is on the ice. Of course, that does not mean you have to be in a crouch at all times, but it does mean that the eyes and the mind have to always follow play.
2. Learn the basic moves and techniques as soon as possible and work to excel at them. The basic moves and techniques are skate saves, pad stack, V drops, stick or pad saves with puck control, blocker saves, catcher saves, covering the puck, puck movement with the stick (shooting, passing and clearing), slides, glides and skating.

3. Understand and work on angles and distances. This is knowing the distance and angle from the goal to take away the maximum goal opening away from the shooter. This is a matter of constant practice and monitoring.
4. Learn to analyze each situation — especially when being attacked — then act accordingly. There are innumerable possibilities for situations that, by analysis, involve understanding the options of the player with the puck, as well as attackers without the puck, plus the level of support available from teammates.
5. Work on major segments of the goaltender's arsenal: feet, gloves, pads, stick. Work must be more than just taking shots; it must often be specific isolated segments. Don't let any segment be dominant because another is weak.
6. Just like other hockey positions, master the skating skills and major arsenal segments so that the thinking portion of the position can be concentrated on. If you don't have good mechanical skills, the critical mental portion of the game will not develop.
7. Work, work, work on skating skills. Invariably, the best goaltenders skate very well and have great agility and balance.
8. Learn what it takes for you to prepare yourself to play a good game. Find the appropriate process that gets you focused.
9. Learn to control the puck whenever possible. That means controlling shoot-in pucks behind the net, freezing the puck whenever it's loose around the net, deflecting shots or loose pucks to the corners, getting the puck to teammates and controlling rebounds.
10. Play with confidence and shake off goals allowed to maintain focus on upcoming action. Non-emotional, clear thinking is one of the basics of good goaltending.
11. Strive for consistency. The best way to do that is to control emotions and have a good grasp of physical skills.
12. Be aggressive and force the attacker with the puck to shoot when and where you want. Challenge the play any time possible.
13. When you are not involved in a team drill during practice, work on individual skills, such as shooting, handling the puck and skating skills and techniques. Good shooting skills are especially important because they allow you to become part of moving the puck out of your zone.
14. Ask for help from coaches and goaltender teammates if you are having problems.
15. Don't retaliate from contact around the net — whether legal or not. Retaliation often results in penalties to you and your teammates who feel obligated to defend their goaltender.
16. Communicate with your teammates, especially those defending around the net. It is a critical aspect of successful goaltending. Don't ever communicate with opposing players; it is seldom of value and exposes your emotions.
17. Look for opportunities to get shots. Every shot is an experience that makes stopping the next puck easier.

(reprinted from December 2, 2010 Coaches Corner, www.letsplayhockey.com)

TRIVIA CORNER

Who has the record for fastest slapshot?

The current NHL record belongs to Zdeno Chara, all star defenseman and Captain of the reigning Stanley Cup Champion Boston Bruins, who recorded a shot of 105.9 miles per hour during the 2011 NHL All Star Game SuperSkills competition, breaking his own earlier record. The current World Record is held by Russian Denis Kulyash of the KHL Avangard Omsk, who slapped a puck at the 2011 KHL All Star Game skills competition with a speed of 110.3 miles per hour.

Unofficially, Bobby Hull, legendary left winger for the Chicago Black Hawks, is said to have let one rip that reached 118 mph during a practice at which they were recording speeds. If the story is true, then Hull was able to put that much torque and power into his shot with a wooden stick, possibly making him the most dangerous man alive with a hockey stick in his hands.

2011/2012 KVHA Board of Directors

[Scott Staby](#) - Vice President Administration

[Jason Valente](#) - Vice President Hockey

[Barry Paxton](#) - Treasurer

[Alicia Urbain](#) - Secretary

[John Maley](#) - Director, Travel Program

[Brad Dedrick](#) - Director, House Program

[Bob Kittridge](#) - Operations

[Len Pietila](#) - ACE Director

[Scott McLaren](#) - Communication &
Membership Services

Special Appointees (1 year term - non voting)

[Mike Wainwright](#) - Director, Girls Program

[Keith Schulz](#) - Equipment

[Bruce Gray](#) - Communication & Membership
Services

Other KVHA Staff

Joann Palaian - KVHA Office Manager

Norm Kawaelde - Referee Scheduler

Matt Ronan - Bookkeeper

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Arena Information

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2755 Arena Dr

Hartland, MI 48353

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(810) 494-5555 ext. 5

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