



Hello Glacier Goalie Families!

At the end of each season, a handful of IDHA Administrators and Coaches sit down to review areas of potential improvement with the goal of improving the experience for each of our players for the following season. We also solicit feedback from parents on this topic. What we routinely heard through this feedback is many goalie parents feel their sons/daughters are looking for qualified instruction from a top level goalie coach during the season. With that, our team went back to the drawing board to see how we accomplish this. During that process, we looked at similar programs in the area, as well as programs at the Tier 1 AAA, High School and the college levels to see how they approach in season goalie instruction.

As a result, we are very excited to announce that IDHA has contracted with GDI Academy USA to have a program wide dedicated goalie instructor for the 2019 – 2020 season. GDI has a history working with many high-level hockey programs; most recently partnering with the Chicago Mission.

There will be a meeting during the first week of September for all goalie families which you and your son/daughter will meet Ryan Honick, President of GDI USA, along with Austin Schmidt, our dedicated GDI Goalie Instructor. Ryan and Austin will outline program details and why they are excited to partner with the IDHA. As soon as the date / time has been finalized, it will be communicated immediately.

By being dedicated to the IDHA, Austin will provide consistent training to your goalie as a “one-voice” source. In the past, our Coaches have attempted to provide instruction to the goalies during practices. We commend our Coaches’ good intentions, however, the effectiveness lacked since Goalies require specific instruction.

In terms of specifics, Austin will be involved with the Goalies on each Travel Squirt, PeeWee, Bantam and Midget team in the following way.

- Pre-Season Goalie / Parent Meeting on Building Goaltender Culture
- Pre-Season Coaching Staff Meeting Building Goaltender Culture
- Practices – 18 teams (Squirt through Midget) 25 weeks, 2-4x per month
- Goalie Clinics- 2 or 3 groups, 3-4 per month
- Game Assessments- Includes viewing, post-game discussion with coach, goalie, and parent
- Personal Goaltender Manual - Post-game assessment forms - Goaltending guide, Drills, etc

Austin will routinely communicate with each Coach about your Goalie’s progression, strengths, areas of opportunities and development. Game Assessments will include viewing, post-game discussion with the Coach, Goalie and parents. On a weekly basis, Austin will provide on-ice instruction during practices. He will also watch a home game during each week. Depending on the level of communication the Goalie would like, Austin will be there to recap their performance in real time and share some feedback in a positive and constructive manner.

Goalie clinics will be more impactful under Austin’s oversight with the plan to continue 3-4 per month. That area in itself is very exciting and we hope each Goalie looks forward to attending these sessions. Austin will also provide “homework” for each Goalie to help better their development.

Please take a moment to check out GDI’s website at <https://gdiusa.us/>. We look forward to seeing you at Tryouts and the September 3rd meeting.

GO ICE DOGS!

Zac Adams
President
Ice Dog Hockey Association