

PORTLAND WINTERHAWKS

HOCKEY CLUB

WJH Parents:

As we wind down our first year with the Winterhawks Junior Hockey Program we wanted to provide you with a review of where we are right now and our plans for next season. First, let me start off by saying that internally we have looked at the year to date and had lengthy discussions on strategies to reenergize, strengthen and improve our overall programs. One consistent issue that seemed to arise was communication. Presently we are working on putting together strategies to improve overall communication between all the moving parts that make up WJH.

We had many highlights over the season including, the very successful Tom's Tykes Learn to Play program, which has introduced a whole new generation of skaters. Waiting for them are the next steps of the Tom's Tykes 6U program, Introduction to Hockey, and the incredible Metro League teams. This year we had 56 skaters enrolled in Tom's Tykes and an overall enrollment of 76 in the U6 program(s)! Overall our hockey registrations totaled 787 participants.

A priority for us early on was coaching development and coaching support. In the last six months we have held 4 coaching clinics and developed a dropbox site where association coaches can access drills, presentations, NHL seminars, training guidelines and useful information for developing practices or skills sessions.

One area which we started to focus on later in the year was connecting our staff and players with youth teams. Our coaches attend several practices and now our players are linked up with different age groups at skills sessions. Eventually I would like to have each of our players assigned to a team for the 20/21 season.

We are in the process of planning new opportunities for female players, coaches and officials. Next year we will dedicate two monthly skill sessions for females only. During these sessions, girls will have the opportunity to get one-on-one coaching and instruction to help master particularly difficult skills and tactics. Because of the high volume of female players in our association and the interest in playing together, we will be selecting a U10 and U12 team from these skills sessions to play in 3 tournaments.

Below this letter I have attached a chart encompassing each program with a short description. Please note, this is in advance of details on costs, coaching assignments, and specific ice time availability. Some things may be subject to change as we iron out specifics in the coming months.

Moving forward over the next several months we will continue to accumulate information from parents, managers and coaches to better help us plan for next years' programs.

All the best with the remainder of the season.

Mike Johnston
VP/GM Head Coach Portland Winterhawks

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Program	Description
Tom's Tykes – Learn to Play	This 6 week program will be for players 4-6 years of age. Equipment and ice time will be free for all players. (August 2020)
Tom's Tykes U6	All players who graduate from Tom's Tykes Learn to Play Program will have an opportunity to enroll in a full year hockey experience. Tom's Tykes U6 Program will focus on fun and skill development through small area games and drills.
Introduction to Hockey	Introduction to Hockey will be designed for players above 6 years of age who have a desire to eventually play in one of the Metro Leagues. This will be a 2-3 month program and upon completion and meeting the required standards, players will be assigned to a Metro Team.
Metro League U8 U10 U12 U14	There will be a Metro League for U8 U10 U12 U14. At the U8 and U10 level all players will be required to play in the league. For the U12 U14 athletes the Metro level will be for all player who do not make the Rep Teams.
Rep Team U10	All U10 players will participate in the Metro League. Eighteen players will be selected from Skills and Compete sessions to represent Portland at 3 Tournaments. Extra team practice sessions will be provided to prepare for tournament play. This team will coordinate their own schedule and budget for the season.
Rep Team U12 U14 U18	There will be full time Rep Teams at the U12 U14 and U18 levels. (potential for a U16 team). These teams will be selected in May and coordinate their own schedule and budget for the season. During the year extra players will be added to their full ice practice sessions.
Female Program	Females may enroll in any of the programs and in addition will have an opportunity to register for 2 female only skills sessions a month.
Female Rep Team	Based on numbers and interest we anticipate putting together a U10 and U12 female team to represent Portland at 3 Tournaments. These players will be chosen from the extra Skills Sessions. Both teams will coordinate their own schedule and budget for the season's tournaments.

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HOCKEY CLUB

Varsity Hockey League	<p>High School players may enroll in the 4 Team Varsity League. This will be for players above the U14 level who do not make the U18 Rep Team.</p> <p>There will be two Skills and Compete ice sessions a month for those players who have interest in additional ice time.</p>
Skills and Compete Sessions	<p>All players at each age group will have a chance to get extra skill sessions for an additional fee. These sessions will be broken down by age group U8 U10 U12 U14 and Varsity. It is a requirement of U10 players who want to join the Rep Team that they register in these sessions.</p>