



Clinton Youth Hockey Newsletter - August 2011

A NOTE FROM THE CYH PRESIDENT:

As the 2011-2012 hockey season fast approaches, I am excited about the many great programs Clinton Youth Hockey will be once again offering to this community. The Board has been working hard during this off-season to enhance our club's ability to attract and retain members and be the best community-based hockey program in New York.

We are pleased to bring back the successful Learn-to-Play/Learn-to-Skate format that was introduced last year. This program provides free loaner equipment and low cost registration fees to new members trying hockey for the first time. This year, we are expanding to two on-ice sessions each week: one on Saturday morning with full equipment, and a second on Wednesday evening without equipment. On Wednesday nights, professional skating instruction will be provided by the Clinton Figure Skating Club. Last year, between our mites and LTP/LTS programs, we had 80 registered members under the age of 8. These 80 kids are the future of Clinton Hockey, and we hope to see our numbers of young players grow even more this year.

I am also thrilled to report that the 2011-2012 total combined registration and fundraising cost to play hockey has been frozen at last year's level. Our fundraising program will consist of a raffle that will give each registered family the option of either keeping their tickets for a chance to win prizes, or selling the tickets to recover up to \$200 of their total fees.

Something new this year will be the introduction of the Mohawk Valley League at the Squirt level. The MVL is a collaboration between Rome Youth Hockey, New Hartford, Whitestown, Clinton and Mohawk Valley. This league is designed to provide a house league environment that doesn't require travel to such far-away places as Binghamton, Ithaca and Elmira. League games will be played on Saturday mornings with Sundays open as off-days or for non-league games. It is the hope of the CYH board that this alternative to the Snowbelt League will reduce the travel burden that so often discourages parents from getting involved with the sport.

Continued on page 2...

CLINTON YOUTH HOCKEY'S AUGUST NEWSLETTER is designed to provide you with important information for the 2011-2012 season.

Our teams step back on the ice Friday, September 23. Ice schedules will be posted on our Web site, www.clintonhockey.org by mid-September

2011-2012 Registration Dates and Times

Thursday, Sept 8 th , 6-8 pm	Clinton Arena
Thursday, Sept 15 th , 6-8 pm	Clinton Arena
Saturday, Sept 17 th , 9-11 am	Clinton Arena
Thursday, Sept 22 nd , 6-8 pm	Clinton Elementary

*Registrations Received after Sept 30 will be Assessed a \$50 Late Fee

As with last season, registration will be a two-step process. **ALL players and coaches must register with USA Hockey online prior to registering with the CYH registrar.** You will find detailed instructions for the registration process inside this newsletter.

Registration Forms will be posted on the website www.clintonhockey.org by August 26th.

Also check us out on **facebook**: Clinton Youth Hockey

INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER...

- 1 A Note from the President
- 2 2011-2012 Age Classifications
- 3 2011-2012 CYH Program Offerings
- 3 2011-2012 Registration and Fundraising Fees
- 4 Registration Process and Checklist
- 5 Hockey News
- 7 Parent Education, Jerseys, Parent Club, Referees
- 7 Coaches Registration Checklist



CYH AUGUST 2011 NEWSLETTER

Continued from page 1....

A Note from the CYH President...

Lastly, I would like to mention a few important dates to keep in mind. The CYH hockey season begins on September 23, and ends on March 25th. We are honored that the New York State Amateur Hockey Association has awarded Clinton the Bantam Tier II State Tournament that will be played at Clinton Arena between March 9th and 11th. We are also working to bring an NCAA Division III matchup between Manhattanville and Morrisville to the Clinton Arena on February 11. We are hosting a tournament for Squirt and Pee wee travel teams over the Halloween weekend. As always, we also hope to host at least one Tier II Sectional and one Snowbelt JAM tournament at the end of the season. These special events are a lot of work for the host teams and families, but they are great fundraisers and each year CYH raises more than \$10,000 from hosting tournaments. This money is used to keep our registration fees low and is critical to balancing the CYH budget each season. Thanks in advance for your support and hard work towards making these tournaments successful.

John Majka

2011-2012 CYH Program Offerings

TRY HOCKEY FREE

- Open to All Ages
- Stick, Skates, Gloves, and Helmet Required
- We Can Provide Equipment or Bring Your Own
- Two Dates; Arrive 30-45 Minutes Early
 - o October 8th 1-2 pm
 - o October 22nd 1-2 pm

LEARN TO SKATE (LTS)

- One 15 Week Session Beginning Wednesday Nov 2
- 45 Min Professional Skating Instruction Wed Evenings
- 45 Min Supervised Open Skate Saturday Mornings
- Open to All Ages

LEARN TO PLAY HOCKEY (LTP)

- One 15 Week Session Beginning Wednesday Nov 2
- 45 Min Professional Skating Instruction Wed Evenings
- 1 Hour Hockey Clinic Saturday Mornings
- Free Loaner Equipment to First 30 Registrants
- Open to All Ages

INTERMEDIATE MITES is for players who have completed the LTP program and are ready for more of a team-based hockey experience. Intermediate Mites will skate approximately 2 times per week from September through March and focus primarily on hockey skill development with cross-ice games introduced in December.

The Mission of Clinton Youth Hockey (CYH) is to provide an improved foundation for the growth and development of area children. Designing programs aimed at increasing participation, improved skills and a responsible environment for the conduct of youth hockey.

2011-2012 AGE CLASSIFICATIONS

BIRTH YEAR	LEVEL
2003 & UNDER	INTERMEDIATE MITE 8U
2003	ADVANCED MITE 8U
2001 - 2002	SQUIRT 10U
1999 - 2000	PEEWEE 12U
1997 - 1998	BANTAM 14U
1993 - 1996	MIDGET 18U
1992 - 1996	GIRLS 19U

ADVANCED MITES is for returning 2003 birth-year players with 2 or more years of hockey experience. Advanced Mites will skate 2 to 3 times per week from September through March and play a combination of cross-ice and full ice games against other teams in the Area.

LEAGUE PLAY FOR 2011-2012

Clinton Youth Hockey is a Tier II organization that fields Travel Teams at the Squirt, Pee wee and Bantam levels in the Central Section of NY State Amateur Hockey Association. CYH squirt, pee wee, bantam and midget house teams compete in either the Snowbelt Hockey League or the Mohawk Valley League. The Girls 19U Travel team will compete in the Great Lakes Girls Hockey League.

MIDGET SKILLS clinics are open to midget age players who wish to skate 2 times per week from September 26th through November 11th.

FRIDAY NIGHT ADULT HOCKEY is for recreational players 18 and over who want to get some exercise and have fun playing hockey in a non-competitive environment. Prior hockey experience is not necessary. Skates, Gloves, Helmet Required. Contact Harris Frank for more info: hfrank@sensis.com



CYH AUGUST 2011 NEWSLETTER

2011-2012 REGISTRATION & FUNDRAISING FEES

TO CALCULATE YOUR CLINTON YOUTH HOCKEY

total registration fees for the 2011-2012 season, add the appropriate (1) Registration Fee and (2) Fundraising Assessment found in the tables on this page. Both components of your fees are used by the Clinton Youth Hockey club to pay ice bills, referee costs and other miscellaneous expenses. The purpose of the Fundraising Assessment is to allow our members the option to recover a portion of their total hockey costs by participating in a fundraising effort.

The 2011-2012 FUNDRAISING PROGRAM will be a raffle. The top 3 prizes are expected to be a large screen TV, an iPad and a "Free Registration" (or \$250 cash). Each family will receive their allotted tickets at registration. The drawing will be held in December. Each family may choose to either keep their tickets with a chance to win the prizes, or sell their tickets to friends and family (at \$10 apiece) to recover their fundraising assessment and offset the cost of playing hockey.

REGISTRANTS MAY CHOOSE FROM TWO PAYMENT OPTIONS – "paid in full" at the time of registration or the "payment plan," which requires the non-refundable fundraising assessment to be paid at registration and the balance of registration fees to be paid in full by Dec. 1.

CREDIT CARD POLICY: In order to provide CYH members with some financial flexibility, we are pleased to accept credit cards for "Paid in Full" transactions during Registration sessions on September 8th, 15th, and 17th. Credit card transactions will not be available at the September 22nd registration.

REFUND POLICY: Clinton Youth Hockey's refund policy and the forms to request a refund are available at the CYH Web site.

If you cannot make it to registration on the designated dates, contact registrar Nina Bremer at 853-3465 or bremer3@roadrunner.com.

LATE REGISTRATION: Any player registering later than Sept. 30 must pay an additional \$50 late registration fee.

Registration Fees per Player (Does not Include Fundraising Assessment)		
Level	Paid in Full	Payment Plan
Learn to Skate	\$75.00	Not Applicable
Learn to Play	\$125.00	Not Applicable
Intermediate Mites	\$225.00	\$260.00
Advanced Mites	\$300.00	\$335.00
Squirt	\$380.00	\$415.00
Pee Wee	\$380.00	\$415.00
Bantam	\$380.00	\$415.00
Midget House	\$380.00	\$415.00
Girls 19U Travel	\$380.00	\$415.00
Midget Skills	\$75.00	Not Applicable
Fri Night Adult Hockey	\$85.00	Not Applicable

Fundraising Assessment (1 per Family)	
Family with 1 Registered* Player	\$200.00 (20 Tickets)
Family with 2 Registered* Players	\$250.00 (25 Tickets)
Family with 3 or More Registered* Players	\$280.00 (28 Tickets)
*Fundraising Assessment is Only Applicable to Registrants for Mite, Squirt, Peewee, Bantam, Midget House and Girls 19U Travel Programs.	

Registration must be paid in full on or before December 1. Players who are not paid in full by that date will not be allowed to participate in practices or games until the balance is paid in full.



CYH AUGUST 2011 NEWSLETTER

REGISTRATION STEP 1:

Register with USA Hockey: ALL players and coaches must register with USA Hockey online prior to registering with the CYH registrar. You will need a credit or debit card to do this. The charge for registration with USA Hockey will once again be \$33 (\$30 registration fee & a \$3 NYSAHA affiliate fee). To complete this registration:

1. Go to www.usahockey.com and click on the "register online" button.
2. Choose Member Type and click the top button "Ice Players & Coaches."
3. Click the box indicating that you are 18 years or older.
4. Select the 2011-2012 season.
5. Click the button for whom you are registering and complete the player/coach information. Please note that the information for players must exactly match information on the player's birth certificate.
6. Although e-mail address is listed as optional, you must provide it in order to receive the confirmation notice, which you must then print and bring with you to the in-person registration.
7. Please include the names and addresses of both parents of each player.
8. You must click the box indicating that you accept the terms of the Waiver of Liability, Release Assumption of Risk & Indemnity Agreement. This eliminates the need for these two forms in the remaining registration packet.
9. Enter your initials.
10. Confirm all information, especially checking that names and birth dates match birth certificates, as mistakes can lead to more paperwork.
11. To register a second player, proceed through the process again and "check out" when finished.

You must print out the confirmation page upon completing and bring it with you to registration.

REGISTRATION STEP 2:

Clinton Youth Hockey Registration Checklist - Your registration forms can be downloaded from the CYH Web site www.clintonhockey.org.

REGISTRATION CHECKLIST

Please note, in order to complete the registration forms you will need to have the following information:

- Players' date of birth
- Emergency contact
- Medical information, including insurance coverage, medications, special conditions, etc.
- Doctor's name and number and Hospital preference, if any
- Parent/guardian contact information (including e-mail address if available)
- If parents are separated or divorced, please include phone and address for both parents.

To speed the process, all forms should be completed and brought with you to registration.

- USA Hockey Registration (including confirmation number)
 - CYH Registration Form
 - Code of Conduct statement
 - USA Hockey Consent to Treat
 - Signed Copy of CYH Refund/Midget Wrap Policy
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Hockey News

Local news:

THE CLINTON ARENA IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE was formed this offseason by Tom Owens to raise money to make several upgrades to the arena. These improvements will benefit all hockey players in Clinton from Learn-to-Play all the way up through high-school. Current projects this committee is sponsoring include:

- The press box ladder is being replaced by a staircase. To make room for the staircase, a row of chairs will be removed and the deck will be extended to make a handicap seating area. Also a new counter and new wiring are being installed in the press box. Ron Siedsma who is a local contractor has spent many hours working on the construction and is donating all his labor.
- The sound system is undergoing modifications to make the sound louder and clearer.
- Dasher board advertising has been offered to businesses who want to advertise at \$1,000 per year. The proceeds will be used for future improvements to the Arena.
- The Town of Kirkland has also been busy installing new lights, a new ceiling and painting the interior walls of the Arena. Mike Orsino and staff have been working hard this summer to make the Arena the best it has ever been and it looks great!

Committee members include John Calidonna, Robin O'Brien, Joe Bonanza, Mike Orsino and Tom Owens. Corporate donations were received from ACCESS Federal Credit Union, Clinton Tractor, US Care Systems and The Clinton Youth Hockey Association. Personal donations were provided by Mrs. and Mrs. Dan Fitzgerald and William Murphy of Clinton.

from USA Hockey:

PROGRESSIVE CHECKING PROGRAM

PASSED: This summer, USA Hockey's Board of Directors overwhelmingly passed all aspects of the Progressive Checking Skill Development Program during its 2011 Annual Congress. The most noticeable change resulting from this program is that beginning in the 2011-12 season, legal body checking in games will begin at the Bantam age level (ages 13-14). In addition, It encourages more body contact in the pre-body checking age categories by providing more training and support for coaches and referees. "This program has taken several years of research and discussion to formulate," said Ron DeGregorio, president of USA Hockey. "USA Hockey has the training and support elements in place for our coaches and referees. Parents should know that this program will better prepare their children for the physical part of the game. It should produce less risk since we will be training players in body contact at an earlier age in a progressive manner. We'll also be tightening up the standard of play for intimidation hits in the youth checking divisions.

from NY State Amateur Hockey:

MITES TO PLAY ONLY CROSS-ICE GAMES

The New York State Amateur Hockey Association recently passed legislation that requires cross-ice only programs be implemented for all 8 & under and younger age classifications beginning with the 2012-13 season for all tournament-bound associations. In addition, the NYSAHA strongly recommends the implementation of strictly cross-ice programs at those levels starting during the upcoming (2011-2012) season.



Hockey News (continued...)

from USA Hockey:

Introducing USA Hockey's Red, White & Blue Hockey initiative: With USA Hockey's Red, White and Blue Hockey program – which promotes the integration of cross-ice practices and games into youth hockey – we can raise the level of creativity among players, increase player participation, and create a positive environment for kids to play, love and excel.

There are four main tenets to Red, White and Blue Hockey.

1. More Puck Time

Smaller spaces mean more opportunity for a player to touch the puck – and ultimately improve their game.

2. Age-Appropriate Training

By shrinking the ice down to their level, kids can get more involved and learn skills quicker and easier.

3. Cost Savings

Because multiple teams share the ice, parents save on ice time costs.

4. Increased Competition

A smaller ice surface makes players of all skill levels think and act quicker, resulting in more frequent battles for the puck.



“Cross-ice games are great. It’s good to see young players playing cross-ice games where they really get a chance to improve their skating and puck-handling skills. There is no need for the youngest kids to play full ice games. Even at the NHL level we play small-area games during practice to improve our game.”

Nick Palmieri
New Jersey Devils,
Clinton Youth Hockey Alumni

[Its all about the numbers.... The strength of a youth hockey program lies in its numbers. Not numbers of wins or losses, or goals scored, or even the number of State Championships won. A program's strength is in its NUMBER OF PLAYERS. More registered players mean access to a larger number of qualified coaches and parent volunteers. More registered players mean lower cost for everyone, since ice and referee fees are spread over a larger base. But most importantly, more registered players mean a club can offer house and travel teams at every level to accommodate every age and every skill level. Higher numbers of players and more teams within an organization benefit both the elite competitive player and the purely recreational player alike.

if you know someone who is thinking about playing hockey, please tell them about our try hockey for free days and get them in contact with one of CYH's coaches or board members.]



CYH AUGUST 2011 NEWSLETTER

ZERO TOLERANCE AND PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAM

Clinton Youth Hockey is recognized as a leader among Central New York youth hockey organizations for its participation in USA Hockey's Zero Tolerance Policy and program of parent education. ALL parents, guardians, and coaches MUST attend one of the Adult Education Program sessions offered during the early part of the season.

CYH supports and will enforce USA Hockey's Zero Tolerance mandate. Please remember that youth hockey is, first and foremost, about the kids, and that everyone wins when parents keep their emotions in check. ***Relax, it's just a game!***

JERSEYS

In an attempt to simplify the registration process, jersey orders will NOT be taken at the time of registration this year. Jersey orders will be taken by coaches and team managers in late September or early October. Clinton Youth Hockey Players need both home (white) and away (maroon) jerseys.

BECOME A REFEREE

Anyone interested in becoming a referee for the 2011-2012 season is encouraged to apply. All you need is the ability to skate and a love for the game! You will receive training, support, and be paid for the games you work. For more information, contact Tom Coyne at tcoyne@wktv.com

COACHES REGISTRATION CHECKLIST

All Coaches must register with CYH. Unregistered coaches will not be allowed on the ice or on the bench. Please bring all of the following to registration:

- USA Hockey Registration (including confirmation number)
- Clinton Youth Hockey Coaches Registration Form
- USA Hockey Code of Conduct
- USA Hockey Consent to Treat
- Volunteer Request Confirmation Number received during NYSAHA Coaching Screening Process*
- Copy of Valid Coaching Card (if already certified)**

* The New York State Amateur Hockey Association, in order to be in compliance with the Affiliate Agreement with USA Hockey, has instituted a policy to screen coaches, on-ice officials and volunteers who have contact with players, whether girls or boys, under the age of 18. The self-screening process should be completed prior to CYH registration by going to the NYSAHA website: http://www.usahockey.com/new_york and following the link for "Screening Policy" on the left-hand navigation menu.

** All coaches have until December 31 of the current season to attend a USA Hockey coaching clinic and complete the online age-specific playing level module to become properly certified. Details at: <http://www.usahockey.com>



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