

Black River Youth Hockey

Family Handbook



2010-2011

Welcome to Black River Youth Hockey (BRYH)!! Youth Hockey is one of the most family-oriented activities you can be involved in. Everyone in the family plays a role, whether it be brothers and sisters helping with the “chuck-a-puck” at a tournament, grandparents driving the carpool to an away game, parents working in the penalty box, or other family and friends coming to cheer the team on – it’s a great opportunity for quality “family time” in your busy lives!

What are we all about?

Youth Hockey is about building life long skills such as sportsmanship and teamwork (and puck-handling, shooting, and more!), but it’s also about building friendships. We’re affiliated with Wisconsin Amateur Hockey Association and USA Hockey – the state and national level governing bodies for youth hockey. We’re also a member of the Wisconsin-Minnesota Hockey League (WMHL), which is made up of the various other community associations in our area that our traveling teams compete against. All levels above the “In-house” teams participate as traveling teams in the WMHL. WMHL member associations include Viroqua, LaCrosse, LaCrescent, Tomah, Sparta, Baraboo, Reedsburg, Wisconsin Dells/Delton, Portage, Altoona, BRYH, Onalaska and others. These networks give your skater access to a variety of team experiences, camps, and competitive levels of hockey.



Our association: BRYH

Black River Youth Hockey started in the mid 1970’s in an outdoor rink next to the Armory, with the generous contributions from many different people and organizations in the area. Our first Zamboni consisted of parents and volunteers with brooms and shovels! (What’s a “Zamboni”? It’s the machine that shaves and smooths the ice between games – the cool one that everyone wants to drive!)

Our belief is that every child who wants to learn to skate and play hockey should be able to and not be limited access due to financial concerns. Registration fees are \$75 for in-house skaters, Mites and U10’s; \$100 for Squirt, U12 and Pee Wee; \$125 for Bantam, U14, U19 and High School. If a skater registers on or before the fall registration date, a \$25 discount is applied. With the new fabulous arena, we will be beginning our season earlier than ever before! Practice usually begin late in September, tryouts for traveling teams are held during the first or second week of October, and games for traveling teams begin the first of December and run through Mid-March. An Annual Recognition Night held in mid-March finishes out the season.

The association also hosts a web page (www.blackriveryouthhockey.com) with information about the teams and rink activities. Please visit this site for answers to questions regarding work hours and who to contact for information.

TEAMS:

Teams: Players can start as early as age 3. *Must be 3 by July 1 of the current year.* We follow USA Hockey rules and teams are developed according to player age by calendar year. All teams are open to both boys and girls. We do offer Girls teams based on the current ages of girls in the program who are interested in playing on Girls-only teams.

For the 2010-2011 season:

In-house: 2007 or earlier

Mites: born 2002 or later

Squirts: born in 2000 and 2001

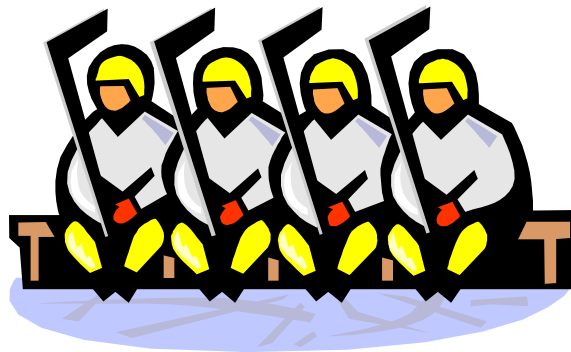
PeeWees: born in 1998 and 1999

Bantams: born in 1996 and 1997

High School: born in 1995 through

Girls: U10, U12, U14, U16, or U19, based on age/birthdate

We play other teams in our league (WMHL), usually once at home in the Milt Lunda Memorial Arena and once at the other team's home ice. Games are mainly on weekends, but may be on a week night with teams that are from nearby towns. Our association has adopted the American Development Model, or ADM for player and team development. You can read more about the ADM through a link from our website as well as the ABC's of the ADM included with this handbook.. Depending on the number of players at each level, there may be more than one team (Mite 1, Mite 2, etc). If there will be more than one team at a level, teams will be selected through a tryout process.



In-House: This is a “Learn to Skate” program for youth from ages 3 to about 6. Players will most likely practice two days per week, (pending final schedule) from December 1 through January 31. If ice time allows, scrimmages between the In house teams may be scheduled on some Saturdays. As players progress in skill development within this group they will be invited to join the cross ice 3 on 3 program scheduled on Saturday mornings from 8:00 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. The 3 on 3 program is a USA Hockey developmental training system for preparing skaters for full ice games. Both traveling teams and non-traveling skaters participate in this program. This level does not travel to play other associations. Parents are strongly encouraged to sign up to assist on the ice – the more help, the better! Players at this age can check-out equipment as part of the \$75 registration fee. Equipment loans are based on availability of appropriate equipment.

Mites: These players are 7-8 years of age (2002-2003). This is the first level of traveling teams. Practices are held 2-3 times a week, with games on the weekends.

Squirts: These players are 9-10 years of age (2000-2001). Practices are held 2-3 times per week, with games scheduled similarly to the Mites.

PeeWees: This is the first level players are allowed to “check”. Skaters are 11-12 years old (1998-1999). Practices are held 3 times per week.

Bantams: Skaters ages 13-14 (1996-1997) play at this level. It is the last level our association sponsors before the high school level. Practices are held 3 times per week.

Girls: Girls teams are leveled according to age – U10, U12, U14, U16 and U19, meaning 10 and Under, 12 and Under, etc. BRYH will sponsor the team(s) that best meets the ages of our skaters.

FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES:

This is one of the major components of our family-oriented association! We really need your support and involvement in the following areas to make Youth Hockey a success – we don’t have paid positions (this keeps your skater’s registration costs low!).

Because we keep the costs low we require each family to participate in two fundraisers during the season. Our first one is the hockey calendars in the fall which are always a big hit and the second one is our Gun/Cash raffle in the spring.

Each family is required to sell or buy-out their portion of the fundraising requirement. You are required to sell 15 calendars and 15 books of raffle tickets. If you would prefer to buy-out this requirement, fill out all the stubs on the calendars and raffle tickets and turn in to your team rep with a check to the Association for \$600. **First year families will only have to sell 5 calendars and 5 books of raffle tickets. Buy-out for the 1st year family will be \$200.**

At the time of registration we will collect a \$300 deposit check from each family (\$100 from 1st year families) to help cover the fundraising requirements. All calendars and raffle tickets will be handed out at this time. Please make sure you get your calendars and raffle tickets during registration.

All calendar stubs and money must be turned in to your team rep by the December deadline set each year. Any family that doesn’t turn in their stubs and money by this date will have their skaters pulled from the ice immediately until this requirement is met. You will need to turn in the money you collect for calendars this year as we will hold your deposit check for the Gun/Cash raffle in March.

All raffle tickets must be turned in to your team board representative by the February deadline. **Any family that has not turned in their stubs and money by this date will have their deposit check cashed at a predetermined date each year.** Any NSF checks returned to the Association will result in a \$50 charge to the family to cover the charges incurred by the Association.



2. 10-hour Work Requirement: High School and Youth Hockey

Each family in youth hockey, which includes high school hockey players, needs to support the association by volunteering in any number of areas including helping set up and tear down the arena/rink. Each family's total hour requirement per season is 10 hours. Again this year we will have the requirement of a deposit of \$100.00 at registration time, which will be returned to the family upon completion of the 10 hours. It will be the parents' responsibility to turn in work hour sheets for hours worked. Our kids are able to skate at a much lower cost than most other associations – other registration fees within a 60 mile radius range from \$300-\$750 – because we handle our own work responsibilities. Anyone who is willing and able to work more hours is greatly appreciated! Examples of work needed that will meet this requirement include

- Rink set up in October
- Rink tear down in March – April
- Flooding the ice
- Putting the kitchen together
- Washing the Plexiglas and windows
- Working at registration
- Other jobs as identified by the Board
- Being the weekend tournament coordinator
- Working High School games/tournaments
- Working tournaments other than your own team home tournament
- Handing out/receiving equipment
- Coaching
- Serving on the board
- Team Parent Rep

Be sure you sign in and out at the arena when you work. Information on work dates and times is available on the website. The following jobs **do not** count toward the 10 hour requirement: Zamboni driving, Kitchen and penalty/announce box time during games and running concessions during practice times. First year, in-house skater families (if your only skater is a first year in-house player) do not have to complete this requirement, but we would welcome your involvement if you are able to volunteer the time!

3. Kitchen and box worker responsibilities: All workers must be 18 years of age.

Each family will take a turn working in the kitchen and working in the penalty/announcer boxes during home games (generally 2-3 times per season for kitchen and 2-3 times per season for the penalty/announcer boxes) for each team they have skaters on. The Parent Rep. for each team will make out the schedule for the

concession/kitchen area as well as the penalty box/announcer schedule. These schedules will be distributed at your team meetings. It's your responsibility to work out any conflicts in the schedule you are given. We don't want to restrict players from playing, but if a family doesn't show up to work their scheduled time, the Board has voted to assess a \$50 penalty to that family. This penalty has to be paid by the next game or the skater has to sit out. We DON'T want the skaters to lose out on the playing experience!!! Please help the association make each and every game a positive experience for players, home and visiting team members by being responsible for your scheduled work times!! These duties are very limited for the in-house program, but if you'd like to assist with tournaments and games to learn how to carry out these jobs, please contact a parent rep from any of the teams. It's a great way to learn more about this great game of hockey!



4. Keeping the rink clean:

Each team will have weeks specified when they are asked to do their share during their player's practice time to help keep the arena area clean. Just a few minutes of your time during practice goes a long way when it comes to cleaning, restocking the kitchen, picking up litter, emptying the garbage, sweeping, and making sure the bathrooms are clean and supplied with necessary items. In the new arena, this is more important than ever. The cleaning schedule is included on the practice schedule, and a cleaning checklist has been hung in the utility closet. Whether it is your assigned cleaning week or not, skaters and families are responsible for picking up after themselves after each practice. Whenever you are leaving the rink, your area should be picked up. Big ticket items such as scrubbing bathrooms, mopping and sweeping bleachers are to be done as often as necessary by the team assigned for the week.

5. Open Skates:

Each skating level (In-house, Mites, Squirts, etc.) will be responsible for putting on one or more Open Skates during the season. These are held on Saturday nights when there are no tournaments scheduled for the arena and Sunday when time allows. Open skates run from 7 – 9:00 pm, admission is \$3.00 for adults, \$2.00 for children under 18. Your parent rep or someone else identified by the team will get this organized. Open Skate nights need volunteers from your team's adults for concessions, music and announcing, rink monitor and admissions.



6. Tournaments

Each team hosts or co-hosts a tournament at the Milt Lunda Memorial Museum during the season. All parents are needed to help make these successful! Schedules are developed by the Parent Rep for the team in conjunction with the Tournament Director, team parent rep, and Concessions Chair. Various responsibilities for tournaments include:

- Kitchen help
- Penalty boxes
- Announcer and scorekeeper
- Chuck-A-Puck sales
- Working Raffle table
- Decorations
- Set up and clean up
- Board Rep or their designee weekend tournament director – counts for work hours

These are the main areas of responsibilities for parents, other than making sure their player gets to practices and games on time and ready: 10 hour work requirement, kitchen and penalty/announcer boxes, calendar and raffle ticket sales, rink clean up, and Open Skates. A successful year for your skater and for BRYH takes all of us working together!!

Equipment

Equipment is available to all kids in the In-house, Mite and Squirt levels, as long as the supplies last. Skates are available for first year in-house skaters only.

Equipment loaned out from BRYH is a service provided to our youngest skaters. PLEASE remember this is the property of BRYH (YOUR association!) and should be well taken care of and kept clean. All equipment checked out must be returned at the end of the season. If a player will be attending summer leagues or camps, arrangements can be made to keep the equipment until August 1. Any equipment lost must be replaced by the family or the family must pay the association the replacement cost. Please encourage your skater to take all of their equipment out of their bag following each practice to completely dry out. Not only does this reduce the smell in the short term, it helps the equipment for the long haul!

Jerseys

Jerseys are to be kept in a garment bag at all times when not worn for games. BRYH Garment Bags can be purchased at local sports merchandisers. Jerseys are only to be worn at association hockey games – they must be taken off after the game. Please don't eat in, shop in, or play in them after the game. Jerseys should be washed inside out, in cold water, and laid flat or hung up to dry. Please do not put them in the dryer – the heat can cause the lettering and graphics to peel off. Thank you for caring for them and leaving them in good shape for the next player!!

Grades

Black River Youth Hockey encourages and supports the education of our youth. A player in fourth grade or higher is ineligible for participation in games if he/she received one or more failing grades in his/her latest grading period. Players will show their report card to the coach no later than one week after receiving reports cards. Reporting grades to the coaches is the responsibility of the player. The coaches will be made aware of report card time. A player may regain eligibility *after 10 days from receiving his/her report card by providing a progress report signed by the teacher demonstrating that grade(s) have been raised to passing.*

Disciplinary Code

The coaches for the team are responsible for maintaining appropriate discipline on their team. Parents are expected to support a positive, sportsmanlike attitude at all times.

If there is an issue or concern with players and/or coaches, the player should first talk to his/her coach. If the issue is not resolved between player and coach, parents should talk to the team manager or parent rep. If resolution is not reached, the concern should be taken to the Board rep for that level, then to a Board officer.



How is the Association organized and run?

A Board of Directors is elected each spring at the Annual Meeting. Board members are expected to demonstrate regular attendance at monthly meetings. Board positions and contacts are as follows for the 2010-2011 skating year:

President – Steve Hoeschele - runs the BRYH Association

Past president – Vacant - assists the president in maintaining continuity in the operations of the organization and assisting the president in the running of the organization, coordinates the coaching staff, monitors compliance with WAHA And USA Hockey coaching requirements

President-elect – Shelly Severson - He/she participates in the operations of the association and prepares to be the leader the following year as well as heads up the recruitment and informational meetings of new skaters

Secretary – Eric Skogstad - maintains the minutes of monthly meetings, communicates with other organizations (local and beyond) as needed

Treasurer – Jill Collins - keeps track of the financial status of the association, makes monthly reports to the board, cuts the checks for arena and BRYH expenses, monitors the income from various sources

Tournament Director – Tanya Potter - oversees all tournament activities for the association, including any regional and state tournaments awarded to the association, coordinates tournament activities with appropriate Board reps

Fund Raising – Melissa Lowe - Coordinates calendar printing, distribution and tracking of family participation and completion of the fundraisers. This person also works closely with the board team representatives to aide in tracking fundraising efforts.

Advertising – Vacant - Maintains a record of advertisers, coordinates the making of signs and the hanging of them in the arena

League rep – Karen King - attends and represents BRYH at WMHL meetings and ensures that the association is in compliance with local, state and national regulations

Team reps – Each skating level has a representative on the board. This person represents all teams at that level, serves as a communication link between the board and those teams, coordinates the tournament(s) at that level under the direction of the Tournament Director, and ensures that those teams are in compliance with BRYH, WMHL, WAHA and USA Hockey regulations.

In-House: Joe Lane

Mites: Bob Madvig

Squirts: Brad Overlien

PeeWee: Tammy Kuhnle

Bantam: Stacy Byerlay

Girls: Tim Barnum

Other non-board positions needed to make the Association work:

Coaches and assistant coaches – we can't have teams without them! Background checks are completed for all coaches. Coaches are required to attend clinics to obtain various levels of certification.

Ice Scheduler - Mike Vold - coordinates the scheduling of the ice for the Milt Lunda Memorial Arena, communicates with coaches and other associations, sets up schedules for cleaning, Open Skate nights, etc.

Referee scheduler – Jared Smith - coordinates the ref schedule for home games, other than tournaments

Referees – we can't have games without them! Students from 12 on up can attend referee clinics to become qualified to ref. Refs must be playing or eligible to play at one level above the team they are refereeing. Ref certification is managed by and according to USA Hockey rules.

Zamboni drivers – every team needs to have 2-3 parents who have been trained on and can drive the Zamboni. Each team is responsible for resurfacing the ice after their own practices and games, and during their Open Skate nights. A Zamboni –driver training is held in the fall for new parents who want to learn.

Concessions Chair – Laurel Meek - does food ordering, ensures that all equipment and processes are in compliance with local and state regulatory agencies

Registrar – Tammy Overlien - handles registration of players, WAHA and USA Hockey compliance, and official roster development, provides game labels

Equipment manager – Kristen Jessie - handles equipment inventory, check out and ordering of new equipment for applicable skating levels

Parent Reps – each team selects a parent rep. As this is the parent handbook, we are including the job description for parent reps.

1) Keep a binder for your team :

The official roster (once you get it from the registrar later in the year) * needed for state

Consents to treat for each skater * needed

Annotation of birth certificate for each skater (illegal to copy birth certificates)*needed for state

Your contacts for each family and the coaches

Score sheet stickers (easier than writing the names and numbers out each game)

Your game schedule

Your practice schedule

- 2) Make up a work schedule for all home games – concessions (2), clock, score sheet, zamboni, penalty box (2)
- 3) Make up a work schedule for open skates, concessions (2), rink monitor/music, admissions
- 4) Remind parents of cleaning weeks
- 5) Run off directions to rinks for new parents
- 6) Remind parents of weekly schedule
- 7) Call and confirm all home and away games with opposing team rep the day or two before
- 8) Fax in all score sheets to the league score keeper (winning team faxes in the sheet) this needs to be done soon after the game if it's not received in 7 days the game won't count.

- 9) I always kept a stats sheet to hand out @ the end of the year, showed wins, losses, goals, assists, saves etc. (may want to check with your coach if this is something he would like to do or not)(Now on website)
- 10) Keep copy of all game score sheets (not sure why except for stats?)
- 11) Work with setting up new parents on clock training, how to do a score sheet and how to do concessions
- 12) Basically answer any questions they may have throughout the season
- 13) Make arrangements for away tournament, collect entry fees and mail in, reserve motel if needed
- 14) New - Website updating

Website for league : wmhl.com

This will give you your standings and contact information for the other teams.



Association Operation and Arena maintenance:

Milt Lunda Memorial Arena: BRYH contracts with the city of Black River Falls to operate the arena from October 1 through May 1 of each year and is responsible for rink operation and maintenance, operating costs such as electricity, and share costs for major repairs of the arena in general during that time. The association owns all rink equipment and maintains an equipment rental program for younger players. BRYH also has a contract with the Black River Falls School District to support the High School Hockey program.

BRYH Financial operations: Financial statements are reviewed and approved at the monthly Board meetings. A financial audit is held every 3 years. All revenues and expenses are generated through the activities of the Association, including local, regional and state tournaments hosted. We have one of the lowest player registration costs in the state. Our belief is that every child who wants to learn to skate and play hockey should be able to and not be limited access due to financial concerns. Low fees are due to the generosity of local community benefactors and the active involvement of our own parents and families! If the registration fee will cause undue hardship on the family, please contact a member of the Board.

Season general schedule:

Early – mid September: Registration held

Mid September: Rink set up – lots of help needed! Usually 6-10 pm and weekends.
October 1: Practices begin (all except in-house)
Mid-October: Traveling team tryouts
December 1: In-house begins, Traveling team games begin
Early February: State Playoffs
Early March: State Tournaments
Mid-March: Season ends
Mid-March to the end of April: Rink take-down

Forms, documentation needed:

- correct IMR
 - Consent to Treat
 - Birth Certificate Verification
 - Parent Commitment Form
 - signed Code of Conduct
 - Signed Family Handbook Agreement
- USA Hockey Code of Conduct:

We hope you, your skater, and your entire family enjoy the benefits of Black River Youth Hockey. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact a member of the BRYH Board. Have a great season, and remember to always model good sportsmanship for our skaters!!



“It’s a great day for hockey!!”

-Bob Johnson

I have read and understand my responsibilities as a **parent/guardian** of a skater in the Black River Falls Youth Hockey Association.

Parent Signature

Date

I have read and understand my responsibilities as a **player** in the Black River Falls Youth Hockey Association.

Skater's Name: _____ Skater's Signature _____

Skater's Name: _____ Skater's Signature _____

Skater's Name: _____ Skater's Signature _____

Skater's Name: _____ Skater's Signature _____