



February 2012 LTP Special Edition

THE FACTCAT

What's Next for My Hockey Player?

Join the 600+ players who have chosen the Novi Youth Hockey Association (NYHA) for their hockey experience. The NYHA offers players born from 2007 to 1994 an opportunity to learn and compete at one of the area's premier hockey facilities - Novi Ice Arena. The NYHA welcomes players from all neighboring communities. We are a community-based, volunteer-governed, non-profit organization designed to offer a structured, educational, and cost-effective hockey experience.

NYHA House players within the Mini-Mite and Mite divisions (birth years of 2007-2004) play teams within Novi and neighboring associations. Last season, all Mini-Mite players competed in cross ice games. Mites played either half ice games or full ice games. All other divisions played full ice games. For the upcoming season, we expect a rule change by our governing body that will allow Mites to play both half ice games and full ice games. This decision will be made in mid July. Mini-Mite and Mite players will have an average of two skates a week, with games typically scheduled on Saturday and/or Sunday.

House players from the Squirt division and older (2003-1994 birth years) all play in the famed Little Caesars Amateur Hockey League (LCAHL). We regularly play teams from neighboring rinks. Squirt/Peewee House players have averaged 60+ hours per season in the past. Squirt to Midget teams also play 7-10 away games at other arenas through LCAHL games - an outstanding hockey value and family experience. The season begins in late August and runs through March 31, 2013. But there's plenty to do before the official start of team play!

Getting Started

1. If you have not yet done so, be sure to **purchase the proper equipment** for your hockey player. The shop in the rink offers a nice deal on start-up equipment. The Play It Again Sports Shop at Grand River and Novi Road also has a great selection of new and used equipment. We will also have a used equipment swap in the upcoming weeks.
2. **Register to be a member of the NYHA.** This needs to be done immediately to ensure a spot and get your player evaluated to be drafted to a team this Fall. The early registration cost is \$125 for Novi resident/\$150 for non resident. These rates both increase by \$25 if your membership application is received after April 1 when registration is open to players not currently in the NYHA system. Don't forget to apply your \$50 coupon to the registration for a nice savings only for you—our Learn to Play Hockey graduates.
3. **Consider hockey options this spring and during the summer.** If you are not quite sure your player is ready for team play, or think a little extra exposure might help prepare them, there are a number of options for team play in the spring and plenty of summer clinics based on their level of skill development that needs the most attention: skating, puck handling, etc. We encourage players moving from the Learn to Play program to NYHA team play to take advantage of off-season programming.
4. After June 1st, go to www.usahockey.com to get your player **registered with USA Hockey**. When doing so, be sure to select the 2012/2013 season. There is a fee of \$45 paid directly to USA Hockey. All NYHA participants must be members of USA Hockey. The receipt from that registration will be required in the August evaluations in order for your player to be drafted to a team.
5. **Watch for updates** to the website and a *FactCat* newsletter around mid July. It will outline some of the optional, but encouraged August programming being offered to help give your player that extra edge. It will also announce the dates for the evaluations skates and the start of the season.
6. **Get ready** for an awesome hockey experience...NYHA style!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.NOVIYOUTHHOCKEY.ORG OFTEN

The Start of the Season

Upon arrival for the first evaluation skate in August, you and your player will check in near the Novi Arena lobby. Bring your USA Hockey Registration confirmation to the first evaluation skate along with your first dues installment. Each player will receive an Evaluation Number, needed for both evaluation sessions (this will adhere to the back of the jersey). Locker rooms are available to help get players dressed.

Players are run through some simple drills by on ice instructors. They are evaluated by the coaches who will be coaching their age group for their skating and hockey skills. Two evaluation skates are needed, so please plan to attend both.

Every player evaluated for the house program will be placed on a team if they are deemed ready to play house hockey. These are not tryouts, but rather a way to gauge where players are in their hockey skills development.

Once the players are all evaluated, the coaches attend a special draft meeting. The Michigan Amateur Hockey Association (MAHA) witnesses the draft process to ensure the process is fair. As a result there will be advanced, intermediate, and beginner skaters ending up on each team. Once your player is drafted, your coach will make contact and provide team specifics and schedule information. Expect this to occur within one week of the second evaluation skate. It is likely that the first practice of your player's new team will be within days of that phone call and before Labor Day!

**For additional questions, call us at
248-735-0393 or e-mail us at
info@noviyouthhockey.org**

Required Equipment



Full protective ice hockey equipment is required for all NYHA players. All players require the following:

- helmet with full face guard
- mouth guard
- neck guard
- protective cup and supporter (kids prefer the type designed for hockey)
- shoulder/chest protector
- shin pads and hockey socks
- hockey pants
- gloves, stick, and skates

Neck guards and mouth guards are mandated by the NYHA and are required every time an NYHA team takes the ice.

NYHA Mission Statement

The NYHA Organization is committed to cultivating and developing youths in the sport of Ice Hockey. This is achieved through dedicated volunteers teaching and improving hockey skills in an atmosphere that promotes good sportsmanship. This model provides each and every person within the Novi Youth Hockey Association, the opportunity to learn, grow and enjoy the game of hockey.

House Dues & Payment Dates

House dues for the 2012-2013 season will be divided into four installments. The first payment is due at the first evaluation skate in August. Remaining payments will be collected in October, December, and January and collected by your team manager. The first installment of dues must be paid before the player skates in the evaluation. This payment schedule is determined based on the cash flow requirements needed to cover the Association's commitments, particularly the purchases of ice and jerseys early in the season. The NYHA accepts checks and credit cards for dues. Only one check per player. Credit card payments include a cost recovery fee. Make checks payable to 'NYHA' and place the player's name on the check memo field. Those who choose to pay by credit card can get the authorization form on the website at www.noviyouthhockey.org. Final dues will be set when the number of participants are known and the ice contracts are completed. The dues for the 2012/2013 season have not yet been established, but will be published on the NYHA website. You are welcome to view the dues schedule from the 2011/2012 season on the website for budgeting purposes. Dues are substantial as compared to the registration fees.

What's the difference between the NYHA, Novi Ice Arena, and Suburban Ice/Farmington Hills?

The NYHA is a non-profit organization which administers and oversees several youth hockey teams—both house and travel levels and a 'Learn To Play Hockey' program. NYHA is managed by an all-volunteer elected board who work throughout the year to bring hockey to the youth of the Novi area.

Novi Ice Arena is the primary home arena of the NYHA. Every year, the NYHA purchases over 3,000 hours of ice at the Novi Ice Arena. Owned by the City of Novi, the arena is managed by the Suburban Sports Group.

Suburban Sports Group is a private business entity providing full service consulting management and ice-sport programming services. Suburban Sports Group also operates Suburban Hockey which develops and operates instructional and competitive hockey programs.

Suburban Ice – Farmington Hills is a privately owned ice arena and is managed by the Suburban Sports Group.

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