



October 3, 2016

Dear HNJ Newark Parents,

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It comes with great disappointment to write this letter, but Hockey in New Jersey has been informed by the City of Newark's Recreation and Public Buildings Department that, for the second consecutive year, the ice surface at the Ironbound Recreation Center will be "inoperable."

Effectively, after 14 years of success in Newark, we are being forced to cancel the 2016 – 17 HNJ Newark season.

The reality of another winter without hockey in Newark is upon us, but we will continue to work on securing ice for the Fall/Winter season for our Newark participants. Unfortunately, it will just not take place at the Ironbound Recreation Center.

In 2003, the existence of hockey in the City of Newark was on the edge of extinction. Our program started with only five children interested in playing ice hockey. Currently, HNJ Newark is one of the largest **National Hockey League's Hockey is For Everyone** programs, with over 250 participants, boys and girls ages five through eighteen. We project over 400 Newark children, from all five wards, would have played hockey this upcoming year if the ice at the Ironbound Recreation Center was available to us.

Hockey in New Jersey is not just merely a hockey program. This season, we have hired an Academic Coordinator to head tutoring efforts with Newark student-athletes. Barnabas Health has planned to perform life skills training classes. And, our semi-travel teams give Newark's youth an opportunity to visit and play teams across the Northeast of the United States.

As our extended hockey family, we want to thank you and your families for your unwavering support.

We at Hockey in New Jersey will continue to fight for the children of Newark, so that they have the opportunity to experience and excel in the sport they have fallen in love with.

Sincerely,

HNJ Team