



## NEWSLETTER: April 2024

It's finally warmer out and we don't know about you, but we're already missing the rink! The board and our volunteers have a very busy summer ahead of us, preparing for the fall start to the 2024-2025 season. There's a lot happening over the next few months, and we can't wait for what the next season is going to bring us.

## ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW

The Annual Meeting happened this past March and we were happy to see so many in attendance. If you missed the meeting, you can find a copy of the [Annual Meeting Program on the website](#). We went over the 2023/2024 Fiscal Year Budget and discussed the success of the inaugural season of the Dragons. Our membership in attendance asked a lot of wonderful questions and we will be addressing those questions and our plans for the season over the next few newsletters.

Additionally, the membership voted on our new board of directors. We welcome our *new board members* and look forward to working together as a team to support this amazing organization.

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

David Gauder – President  
Andy Roe – Vice President  
Liz Payne – Treasurer  
Lindsay Schleis – Secretary

### MEMBERS AT LARGE

Mike Taylor  
Chad Normington  
Zach Goepfinger  
Blythe Robbins

Greg Fawver  
Aaron Palmer  
Tara Groth  
Natasha Lippitt

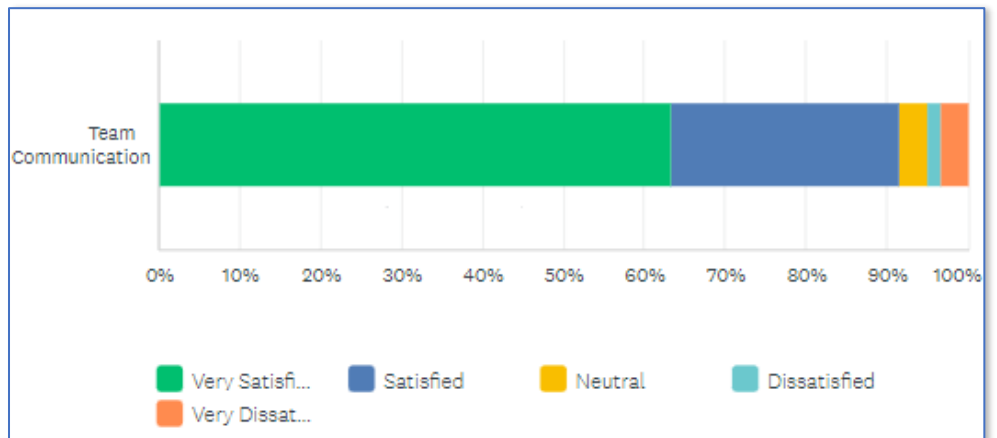
## END-OF-THE-YEAR SURVEY

Communication and Transparency is important to our organization. Thank you to all who took the time to fill out the PYHA Annual Survey; we had over 110 responses with particularly strong engagement from Co-ed Travel teams (all age and skill levels), Mites, and Level 2 skaters. We appreciate membership feedback and took quite a bit of time last week discussing the results during the monthly board meeting. We hope everyone understands that this feedback is important to the board to help us grow successfully as an organization.

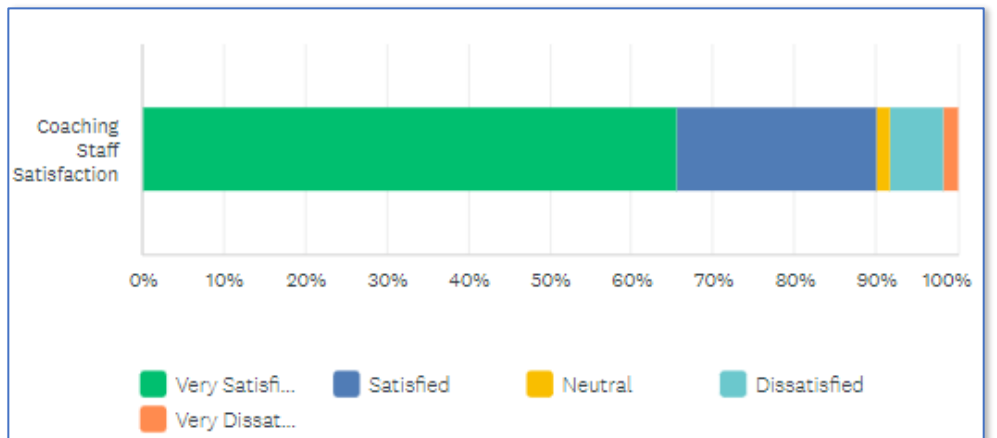
### Key Themes from the Respondents:

64% of Bantam or near Bantam aged families would prefer teams to be formed at the start of the year vs. waiting until HS hockey starts knowing this may impact team count and composition and will require good understanding and communication from PYHA volunteers and parents.

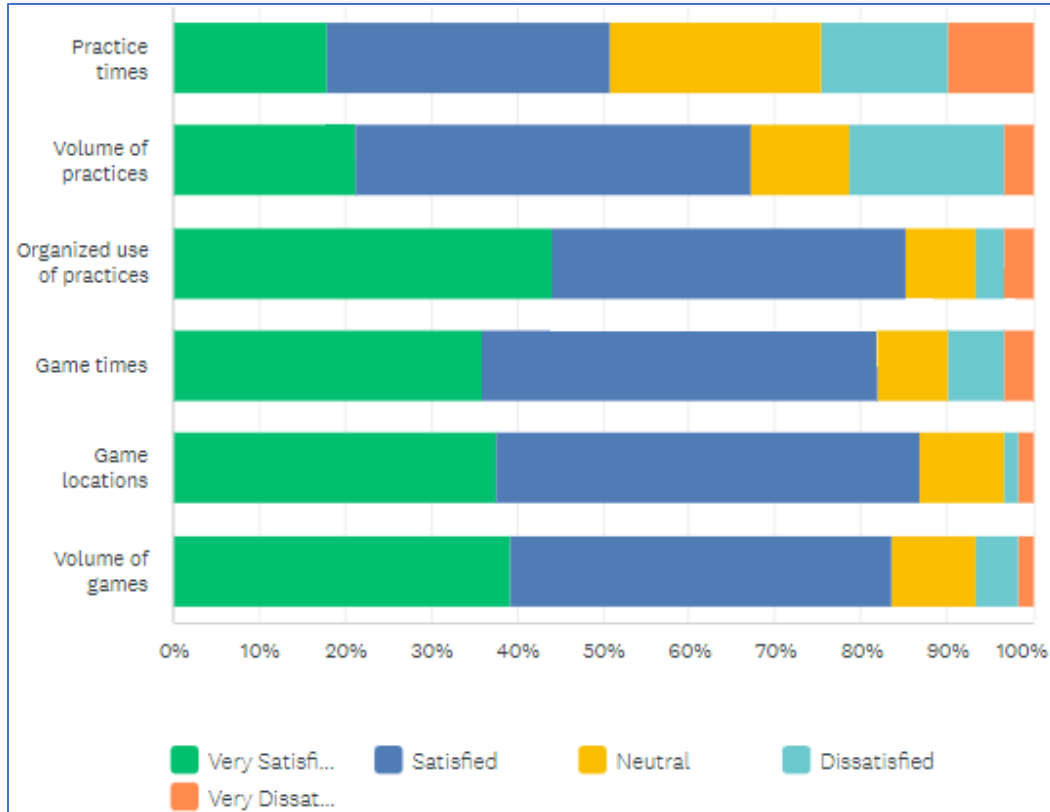
Organizational communication has improved (no deterioration) and most respondents were satisfied with the communication content. PYHA volunteers and communication receivers will continue to work on this together.



Front line team leadership volunteers (Head Coach, Assistant Coaches, and Team Managers) received favorable marks for overall leadership, communication, and skater development (e.g. "Hockey IQ", skating, etc.)



Ice times and practice/skills volumes were flagged as a concern and or had lower favorability. While this isn't unique to our organization, PYHA volunteers continue to work tirelessly on scheduling and sourcing ice times.



Members are seeking clearer ways and more options to help volunteer and/or fulfill volunteer credits. PYHA Board and Committee volunteers will be working on ways to streamline and clarify these year-round opportunities.

## QUICK HITS

- Cleaned out the hockey bag and found a jersey that needs to be turned in? Mites, Dragons, and practice jerseys are borrowed for the season and need to be returned to the PYHA. If you happened to find a wayward jersey, please reach out to [jerseys@patriotshockey.org](mailto:jerseys@patriotshockey.org) for return arrangements.
- The organization has several committees that will be looking for new volunteers this season. Please watch for upcoming communications, detailing the various committees and who to contact to join. Committee membership and time spent will count toward volunteer credits.
- The Region 4 Showdown will be held August 9-11, 2024 at Verona Ice Arena. Registration will be opening soon for all four divisions: U8, U10, U12, & U14.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**The Annual Patriots Golf Outing** – Registration for the golf outing is open! Join us Saturday August 3 at [The Oaks Golf Course](#). Cost is \$115 per golfer or \$460 per foursome with all proceeds going towards ice time fees and player sponsorships.

Minutes from the previous month's board meetings are always available online, following approval at the most recent meeting. [Minutes from the February 2024 meeting are now available online](#). The next board meeting will be held **Monday, May 13 at 6 p.m.** at [Oakstone Recreational](#) in Cottage Grove and is open to all members of PYHA.

We always want to hear back from our families. If you have any questions or concerns, you can email them to [PYHABoard@patriotshockey.org](mailto:PYHABoard@patriotshockey.org).

If you are no longer a member of PYHA and would like to be removed from the email list, please visit our [Unsubscribe](#) page for instructions.