



NEWSLETTER: August 2024

The summer is almost over, kids are getting ready to go back to school, and that means it is almost hockey season! The OIC and Board of Directors have been hard at work prepping for the upcoming season. We have a lot of exciting things happening, including celebrating our 40th anniversary!!

CAMP ICE, TRYOUTS, PLACEMENTS

WHAT IS CAMP ICE?

This is the opening of the season for all of our travel level (U10-U14) skaters. The OIC will run practices for each age group, giving the kids time to get used to being back on the ice, run some drills, and prepare them for try-outs and placements.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TRYOUTS AND PLACEMENTS?

A-teams **tryouts** are used for a selective team formation. Skaters are assessed on effort, competitive attitude, and hockey intelligence rather than assigning scores or rankings to individual performance in specific drills. Further, the coach's insights into a skater are factored into the decision-making process. Only skaters who registered to tryout for A-teams are eligible to attend.

B/C **placements** uses a traditional ranking system where skaters (as anonymized as possible) are assessed by evaluators. Skating, puck control, hockey IQ, and competitiveness are rated per skater and used to derive an overall score which is used to place players on teams. All registered skaters at the travel levels are eligible to attend placements.

The OIC will be hosting parent meetings prior to Camp Ice. During these sessions, the OIC will go over the schedule, expectations, and answer any parent questions.

- **OIC Open Forum** – Scheduled for September 12 and 15, hosted online times TBD.
- **Camp Ice** – September 9-20
- **A-Team Tryouts** – September 16-18
 - A-Team Selections 9/19
- **Placement Sessions** – September 16-27
- **Team Placements** – October 5

For more detailed information on Camp Ice, Tryouts, and Placements; please review the updated **PYHA Tryout and Placement Process** document found on <https://www.patriotshockey.org>.

TREASURER UPDATE

The books are being finalized from the previous season. Invoices are going out for any outstanding fees. Players with outstanding balances from last season will be required to be paid up or on a payment plan prior to being able to participate in Camp Ice and Tryouts/Placements. If you have questions about invoices or the process, please reach out to treasurer@patriotshockey.org.

DRAGONS UPDATE

Earlier this month many of our Dragons participated in the second annual Region 4 Showdown. This year, Verona Ice Arena graciously hosted the event, which has become so large, two full sheets were required! The showdown was a huge success with 119 girls participating. A few of the highlights from the weekend were:

- Three divisions with a total of 10 teams
- Twenty-four games played over two days
- All female head coaching staff
- Many female officials
- Play it Again Sports and House of Hockey sponsored jersey
- Several donors contributed to raffle items

The Dragons have been selected as hosts for the 2026 U14-A State Tournament! This is a huge honor, and we are excited to have been granted this opportunity!



LET'S TALK ABOUT REC

The Recreational (Rec) Team is a fantastic opportunity for families to learn and grow with the sport of Hockey! The kids get to skate with other kids that are learning the GAME, and the teams have historically developed positive, supporting relationships with one another. Not only is it a great opportunity for the kids to develop new skills, BUT PARENTS also get the opportunity to learn with them. Several Parents have also taken advantage of the opportunity to learn to coach, giving them the chance to be immersed in several kids' development. Whether you are a kid that wants to try something new, want to play in between your other activities, or a Parent who wants to learn new skills, Rec has a home for everyone!

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

This year's outing was an outstanding success! It was a beautiful day for golfing for the 22 teams that registered. A huge thank you to our 18 sponsors who helped make this a successful event.

Congratulations to our winners: JW Sims, Mike Hanna, Todd Hrenak &, Jon Provenzano

NECK GUARDS NOW REQUIRED

As of August 1st, 2024, USA Hockey requires all youth skaters to wear neck laceration protection when on the ice. This includes all skaters and on-ice officials under the age of eighteen. Neck guards and neck-protective shirts are available at Suter's Gold Medal Sports, Pure Hockey, and Amazon. This is considered a personal item and will NOT be provided as rental gear through the association. No skater under the age of eighteen will be allowed on the ice without neck protection.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Taste of Madison – Patriots Youth Hockey will be hosting a Beer Stand at Taste of Madison again this year. We have our same station on MLK Jr Blvd & W Main St. To register, [please use the signup genius link](#) and ALSO complete the sign up required through Taste of Madison that can be found on the sign up genius page. This step must be completed for all volunteers. Credit hours will be applied for the 2024-2025 season once registration is complete and DIBS for the season have been set up.

Dine-out Nights – The easiest fundraisers of the season! We've added the first of our Dine-out Nights to the calendar for Culvers and Ian's Pizza. All you have to do is show up during the designated times and a portion of the sales comes back to the Patriots organization!

QUICK HITS

- Warm-Ups for Patriots and Dragons are available to order at Suter's Gold Medal Sports. Stop in, say Hi to Mary, and get your orders in by October 14. She also has home and away socks for both teams ready for purchase.
- The apparel store is being finalized and will open very soon. Keep your eyes on your inboxes for Patriots and Dragons merch!
- The updated PYHA Handbook is now available on the website. You can find it on the home page or in the Organizational Documents section.
- Hartmeyer will have open hockey opportunities through August. These are often held on Wed. 4:15 – 5:45 p.m. and Fri. 1:15 – 2:45 p.m. Cost is \$6 per player, Goalies in full gear are free. Open Hockey is open to ALL AGES. Watch for updates on Facebook or the [MII Open Hockey page on their website](#).

Minutes from the previous month's board meetings will be available online following approval during the most recent meeting. The next board meeting will be held **Monday, September 9 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.

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.

