

WAYHA Newsletter

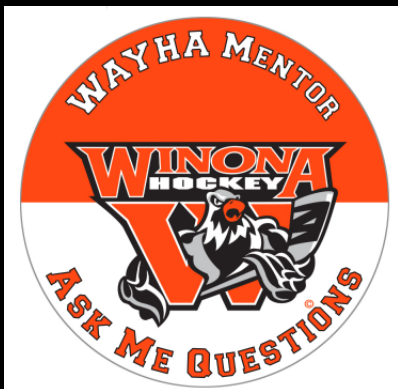


SEPT.
'23

Welcome to a new Season!

Welcome to the new season of Winona Youth Hockey! It is exciting to be back and see kids on the ice again! Most importantly, Thank You! Our WAYHA families are wonderful and passionate about hockey, and it is great to be a part of. This year's registrations show it. We have a 94% retention rate for players from our 10USquirt players up through Bantam! That is a remarkable returning player percentage! There is still time to register and play, so if you or anyone you know may be still interested, please go to our website to register. Now,

LET'S PLAY HOCKEY!!



Resources

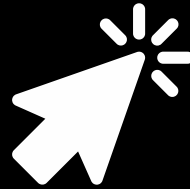
[USA HOCKEY PARENTHANDBOOK](#)

[MINNESOTA HOCKEYPARENT GUIDE](#)

[OUR KIDS PLAY HOCKEY- AWARD WINNING PODCAST](#)

[POWERTECH HOCKEY -PLAYER, PARENT AND COACH EDUCATION WEBSITE AND PODCAST](#)

[WAYHA REGISTRATION PAGE](#)



ATTENTION ALL *New* HOCKEY FAMILIES!!



WAYHA has initiated a new Family Mentor Program to assist first year hockey families navigate the in's and out's of youth hockey. Keep an eye out for our friendly and knowledgeable mentors around the arena. You will know who they are by their smiling faces and their mentor buttons (see picture left). They can answer questions new families might have from how to dress your new skater to the rules and regulations of the great sport of hockey!

Player Evaluations

What does this really mean? Yes, evaluations are indicators on how the program committee and evaluators decide on where each player should be placed from a team perspective 10U and older. More importantly they will be providing a baseline to see how much your player(s) develop from the beginning of the season to the end. They also help our coaches be better coaches by understanding their players better. Your player's evaluation document in its entirety will be provided to you at the end of the season. Portions may also be used by coaches during the season for relaying positive areas of development or areas that need improvement. In addition to the skater evaluations, goalies will be a part of the same process. Goalies will have an evaluation day that is more specific to their position. More to come on the goalie evaluation day.

We will be doing skills assessments in the fall on the following dates:

- **Monday, September 18th**
- **Tuesday, September 19th**
- **Wednesday, September 27th**

Please check the WAYHA calendar for the time of your player's skill evaluation by the level registered. We have published three to get all of the players through this process. Any remaining time will be used for cross-ice hockey activities. Skills assessments will take place again in February. Drills are timed or counted. These numbers will provide a starting point that is a tangible metric we can work off for measuring progress with your player. At the 10U level all players please show up in regular hockey gear. Pee wee\12U and up goalies are asked to wear goalie gear during the skills assessment.

Player Skills

- Forward Speed
- Skating Agility
- Skating Transitions (Skating forward to backwards)
- Passing (Forehand and Backhand)
- Shooting (Forehand and Backhand)

Behavioral

- Engagement – Is the player engaged in the practice or scrimmage they are involved in.
- Coachability – Is the player listening to the coach on the ice during practice or on the bench during a game.
- Character – Is the player supportive of other teammates on the ice or in the locker room.

Game Play

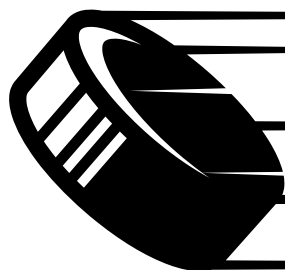
- Skating – Is the player only skating forward when they use their edges during a game.
- Stickhandling – How does a player skate with puck and able to get around opposing players
- Shooting- How do they shoot the puck in the offensive zone.
- Competitiveness – Does the player aggressively go after the puck or do they wait for it to come to them.
- Hockey IQ – Does the player know where to go on the ice and how to handle different game situations.

These are key skills each player must utilize during a game as hockey is not just a physical skill game but also a mental game. Some kids perform differently in a practice setting vs. game setting and this helps visualize that. These are done on a rating scale 0(Poor) Thru 5(Excellent). The schedule for scrimmages is still being worked out. You will be notified once a schedule is available. All schedules will be posted to the WAYHA Calendar.

Parent Hockey Education

WAYHA has a great parent support group which is greatly appreciated. Just like players, not all parents are familiar with the game of hockey and its rules and game play. It is important that we all strive to learn more. Hockey is a fast competitive sport with lots of action. The WAYHA Program Committee is following the lead of Minnesota Hockey and USA Hockey in its efforts to increase education among hockey parents. Throughout the season WAYHA will be providing educational materials and resources via email, social media and resources on our website to make information more easily accessible. Hockey might be the greatest game in the world. Many parents who

never played hockey have found a passion for the game in Winona. Winona is a Hockey Town. See the resources section to get started on your path to better understanding of the game we all love.



DATES TO REMEMBER



Sept. 18th, Sept 19th, Sept 27th

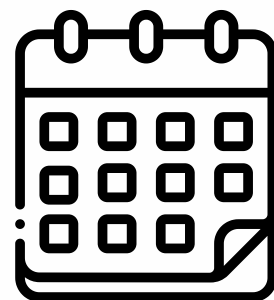
Player Evaluations (Squirts, Pee-Wees, Bantams)

**Must attend at least one evaluation session. If unable to attend the dates provided please contact the program committee [HERE](#)*



Oct. 7th 9am-10am

Girls Try Hockey FREE Ages 4-9



Click the calendar icon to see the
WAYHA Calendar