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Wayzata Youth Hockey Association



If you are a first time hockey parent, or dream of one day spending more than \$10,000 and sacrificing weekends for a decade of glamorous youth and "minor" hockey, here are 13 important things you need to know about the youth hockey universe - and hockey in general - to help speed up the assimilation process in joining the "Congregation of Independent Insane in the Membrane Hockey Community Union" or COIITMHCU. If you move those letters around you eventually get Chicoutimi. A miracle from the star-filled heavens above. (I'm sure my fellow COIITMHCU members will offer even more and we can post next week.)

1 Under no circumstances will hockey practice ever be cancelled. Ever. Even on days when school is cancelled, practice is still on. A game may be cancelled due to inclement weather because of travel concerns for the visiting team, but it would have to rain razor blades and bocce balls to cancel hockey practice at your local rink. It's good karma to respect the game.

2 Hockey is an emotional game and your child has the attention span of a chipmunk on NyQuil. The hockey coach will yell a bit during practice; he might even yell at your precious little Sparky. As long as there is teaching involved and not humiliation, it will be good for your child to be taught the right way, with emphasis.

3 Hockey is a very, very, very, very difficult game to play. You are probably terrible at it. It takes high skill and lots of courage, so lay off your kid. Don't berate them. Be patient and encourage them to play. Some kids need more time to learn how to ride the bike, but, in the end, everyone rides a bike about the same way.

Your kids are probably anywhere from age 4-8 when they first take up hockey. They will not get a call from Boston University coach Jack Parker or receive Christmas cards from the Colorado Avalanche's director of scouting. Don't berate them. Demand punctuality and unselfishness for practice and games. That's it. Passion is in someone, or it isn't. One can't implant passion in their child. My primary motive in letting my kids play hockey is exercise, physical fitness, and the development of lower-body core strength that will one day land them on a VH1 reality show that will pay off their student loans or my second mortgage.

4 Actually, I do demand two things from my 10-year-old Squirt, Jackson. Prior to every practice or game, as he turns down AC/DC's "Big Jack," gets out of the car, and makes his way to the trunk to haul his hockey bag inside a cold Connecticut rink, I say, "Jack, be the hardest, most creative and grittiest worker...and be the one having the most fun." That might be four things, but you know what I mean.

My 13 Simple Rules for Hockey Parents Everywhere

By John Buccigross
ESPN.com



own skates by their second year of Squirts. Jack is 67 pounds with 0 percent body fat and arms of linguini, and he can put on, take off and tie his own skates. If he can, anyone can. I don't go in the locker room anymore. Thank goodness; it stinks in there.

6 Do not fret over penalties not called during games and don't waste long-term heart power screaming at the referees. My observational research reveals the power-play percentage for every Mite hockey game ever played is .0000089 percent; for Squirts, .071 percent. I prefer referees to call zero penalties.

7 Yell like crazy during the game. Say whatever you want. Scream every kind of inane instruction you want to your kids. They can't hear you. In the car ride home, ask them if they had fun and gently promote creativity and competitiveness, but only after you take them to Denny's for a Junior Grand Slam breakfast or 7-Eleven for a Slurpee. Having a warm breakfast after an early morning weekend game will become one of your most syrupy sweet memories.

8 Whenever possible, trade in your kids' ice skates and buy used skates, especially during those growing years and even if you can afford to buy new skates every six months. Your kids don't need \$180 skates and a \$100 stick no matter what your

tax bracket is. They will not make them better players.

9 Missing practice (like we stated above) or games is akin to an Irish Catholic missing Mass in 1942. We take attendance at hockey games very seriously. The Islanders' Brendan Witt was hit by an SUV in Philadelphia. Witt got up off the pavement and walked to Starbucks for a coffee, and then later played against the Flyers that night. Let me repeat: BRENDAN WITT WAS HIT BY AN SUV ... AND PLAYED THAT NIGHT! Re-read that sentence 56 times to your child when they have a case of the sniffles and want to stay home and watch an "iCarly" marathon. By the way, Philadelphia police cited Witt for two minutes in jail for obstruction. Witt will appeal.

10 Teach your kids not to celebrate too much after a goal if your team is winning or losing by a lot. And by all means, tell them to celebrate with the team. After they score, tell them not to skate away from their teammates like soccer players. Find the person who passed you the puck and tell him or her "Great pass." We have immediate group hugs in hockey following a short, instinctive

reaction from the goal scorer. I am proud of my boy for a lot of things, but I am most proud at how excited he gets when a teammate scores a goal. He is Alex Ovechkin in this regard.

11 There is no such thing as running up the score in hockey. This is understood at every level. It's difficult to score goals and unexplainably exhilarating when one does. If we get to 14-1, we may want to take our foot off the gas a tad.

12 Unless their femur is broken in 16 places, Mites or Squirts should not lie on the ice after a fall on the ice or against the boards. Attempt to get up as quickly as one can and slowly skate to the bench.

13 Do not offer cash for goals. This has no upside. Passion and love and drive cannot be taught or bought. I do believe a certain measure of toughness and grit can be slowly encouraged and eventually taught. Encourage your kid to block shots and to battle hard in the corners. It will serve them well in life.

Enjoy the rink. Keep it fun, keep it in perspective and enjoy the madness. In this digital world of electronics, you may find hockey to be the most human endeavor you partake in. Cell phones run on batteries. Hockey players run on blood. Blood is warmer. Welcome.
John Buccigross' email address - for questions, comments or crosschecks - is john.buccigross@espn.com

Goalie's Corner

by Laurie Ahrens

I recently chatted with Jason Muthart and Pete Samargia to ask a few questions about the in-house goalie training program. Fourteen free in-house goalie training sessions are held on Monday evenings at the rink, and all goalies are encouraged to attend. Jason is the WYHA Goalie Development Coordinator. He plans the goalie training program for the association, coaches the Monday night goalie clinics, and advises the association on all goalie development matters. Pete Samargia (Attitude Goaltending) assists Jason with the in-house goalie training program.

Q: What is the purpose of the in-house training sessions?

These sessions allow younger

players to try goaltending. Goalies can work on their individual skill development, as well as learn from each other. The sessions help spread consistent knowledge about goaltending throughout the organization. Coaches can also attend the sessions to learn how to help their team's goaltenders.

Q: The sessions are divided into age groups. What do you focus on with each group?

In the mite sessions, we work on the basics - proper goalie stance, equipment fit, and one movement to the shot. With the squirts/peewees, the complexity of the drills increases, and we work on multiple movements into the shot. At the bantam level, we practice multiple movements from the down position and position recovery, breakaways, and situational awareness. At all levels, we have some fun.

Q: What do you enjoy about being part of these sessions?

We enjoy working with the kids and watching their development, both on and off the ice. This is a

place for us to share the passion we have for the game of hockey and for goaltending. The greatest satisfaction we get is to have a goalie

Q: What is your advice to Wayzata goalies this season?

Take control of your attitude and your effort. If you handle these,



The WYHA association's in-house goalie training is held Monday nights. The goal: consistency and development.

tell us about their accomplishment in a game, and it was something they learned and worked on here in practice.

the rest comes easier. Also, don't ride the emotional rollercoaster. Remember, you will learn and improve from your successes and your setbacks. Have fun!

By Linda Riley

Rodney Dangerfield's famous line, "I get no respect," makes me think he must have been involved in hockey in his life. It seems respect can just go to the wayside in the hockey rink. Maybe it's all the testosterone. Maybe it's the smell that numbs the brain. I don't know. Players take cheap shots against the opponents or dis their own teammates' play or roll their eyes at the coach. Parents yell from the stands at the coach or the referee or the opposing team's players or the opposing team's coach or each other. There seems to be a never-ending number of targets to disrespect when it comes to hockey.

Respect & Protect is a promotional campaign created to encourage safe and respectful hockey and reduce injuries, especially brain injuries. It was created in partnership by the Minnesota Wild and Minnesota Hockey and is supported by Kemps. By respecting coaches, officials, teammates, opponents and fans, the great game of hockey is better for everyone. In addition, staying safe is equally important. It is critical that we protect ourselves and our opponents from injury and be consciously aware of where we are and where our opponents are on the ice.

After watching hockey over these many years, here are my thoughts. To quote a famous Aretha Franklin song "R-E-S-P-E-C-T..find out what it means to me."

Players, respect each other! Don't put down your teammate's play. Don't purposefully exclude line mates who you don't like or whose play you don't like. Don't do "cheap" checks like checking from behind, or hits after the whistle or retaliatory checks. It's a team sport and in life you will work with people you don't like and you need to learn to work with people with different personalities and styles.

Coaches, if you see one of your players being disrespectful in any way, address it with the player. Perhaps they need to sit a shift. Nothing corrects bad behavior faster than losing ice time. Maybe the player needs to have some one-on-one checking instruction. Parents, don't make excuses. Demand your player take responsibility for their play. Don't let them get away with saying it's everyone else's fault. When they're saying it's everyone else's fault that's a sure

sign they're at fault and they are really trying to shift the blame. Talk to them about playing appropriately and respectfully. If you don't see the coach correcting the problem, bring it to their attention that you would support any discipline or instruction needed. In the end, it's only going to make your child a better hockey player and a better person.

Players, respect your coach! I have heard of players being insubordinate by blatantly refusing to do drills. While this is an extreme example, little signs of disrespect are more prolific. Players talking to their teammates when the coach is talking, not looking the coach in the eye when he/she is speaking directly to them, not doing what the coach asked because they

Puck Marks

Show a Little Respect

think their way is better or laughing and talking negatively about the coach behind their back are just some examples of disrespect. This disrespect can tear a team apart and ruin any chance of a successful season. In real life, you'd be out of a job quickly!

Coaches are paid very little (or not at all) to spend a lot of time with players over the course of the season to teach a very difficult game. Most coaches are good people who have a passion for the game and a passion to make your child a better player and your team a success. Let's face it, without a coach, you couldn't play league hockey. So listen to the coach when he/she is talking. Look him/her in the eye. Do what they ask you to do. Give your very best effort on the ice. And if a teammate talks smack about the coach, speak up!

Parents, respect the coach! You may not always agree with what the coach is doing. Maybe you don't like where junior is playing or maybe you think the warm up drill before the game "sucks". Let's face it. During the course of the five month season, you're probably going to find some things you don't agree with.

But remember, your coach is putting in hundreds of hours teaching your child a difficult game so cut him/her some slack. Don't talk about the perceived shortcomings of the coach in front

of your player. Do it with your spouse in the car or after the kids go to bed (but make sure they are truly asleep!). For those significant battles where you do feel an issue needs to be addressed, do it appropriately. At WYHA, the appropriate process to address any concerns is through the team manager who will work with your coach on your behalf. And by all means, if you have something good to say, let the coach know that, too!

Everyone, respect the ref! The poor, underpaid referee. He has to put up with abuse from screaming, foot stomping, hat-throwing, and arms-up-in-the-air-oh-my-God-I-can't-believe-that-call coaches. Then there are the parents screaming from the stands when the ref makes a "bad" call yet most haven't taken a course to become a referee, or ever coached a team or read the hockey manual cover to cover. Finally there's the ref's favorite; the obnoxious, eye-rolling,

I-know-it-all-middle-even-though-they're-less-than-half-my-age middle schoolers and teenagers who throw their arms up in disbelief and argue with the ref that the other guy "just fell" as they skate over to the penalty box.

Please realize the referee did not wake up the morning of your game and think to him/herself, "I can't wait to referee today and make a lot of really bad calls so the coach can argue with me, the parents can scream at me and the players can whine in my ear all the way to the box telling me how awful I am at my job." Nope. Most referees try to do the best they can and make calls to keep little Janie and Johnnie safe on the ice. Are they always perfect? No. Are some referees better than others? Yes. But that's true in life in any occupation. If there is a ref who seems to be particularly weak or seemingly lacks knowledge, I'm sure the coach will notice that long before the players or the parents and bring it to the attention of the appropriate people.

So next time you enter the rink, think about what kind of example you as parents want to be for your player about how to treat others. Respect is not just a hockey lesson-it's a life lesson.



Wayzata Teams Sweep “First Test of the Best” Tourney

by Laurie Ahrens

Three Wayzata teams traveled to Eden Prairie over Thanksgiving weekend to participate in the “First Test of the Best” hockey tournament. Wayzata swept the tournament, returning home with Pee wee A, Bantam A, and Bantam B1 first-place trophies.

The Pee wee A team beat Eden Prairie 4-3 in the semi-final game before winning the championship 3-2 over Edina (See full story below.)

The Bantam B1 team beat Osseo-Maple Grove by a score of 5-2 in the semi-finals and handily beat Eden Prairie 7-2 for the first place win.

The Bantam A team earned a 2-1 win in the semi-final game over Osseo-Maple Grove to move on to the championship game. The Trojans won 3-2 over Elk River in a triple overtime thriller.



Wayzata Bantam A: Otto Haeg, Jacob Scattergood, Nick Olmanson, Brian Machut, Chad Olson, Mitchell Kowalski, Alec Hemenway, Chandler Lindstrand, Evan Fleming, Chase Heising, Nate Mayer, Jack Sorensen, Tommy McCollins, Matthew Freytag, Rem Pitlick, Vaughan Ahrens, Joe Silbaugh. Coaches: Marc Sorensen, Judd Stevens, Jim Neary, Jon Maruk, Sam Windsor

Pee wee A #1 at EP Tourney

Linda Riley

The Wayzata Trojans Pee wee A team captured the Championship in their first tournament of the year, the Eden Prairie Thanksgiving Tournament. Sixteen teams participated in the tournament and were divided into four divisions.

Wayzata’s first contest in pool play was against the Roseau Rams. It was the Rams second game of the year and Wayzata took advantage of that. Wayzata had a solid start, scoring three goals in the first period with some pretty passing plays and looked well on their way to an easy victory when they scored their 4th goal at the 9:00 minute mark in the second. But 30 seconds later, Roseau took advantage of a couple of Wayzata defensive lapses and scored two goals within 15 seconds of each other. Roseau was back in the game and the score was 4-2 halfway through the second. Wayzata got refocused, with the defense playing solidly and the offense finished the game with a final scoring barrage of three goals in the last four minutes, beating Roseau 10-2.

Their next opponent was the Eagan Wildcats in a 9:30 p.m. start later the same day. Wayzata dominated the first period scoring two goals. The ice was resurfaced after the first period and Eagan came out of the locker room and onto the ice on fire at the beginning of the second. They kept the play in the Wayzata end for a while and Wayzata became a bit frazzled and committed three penalties in a four minute period. After that they settled down and out shot Eagan 12 to 1 in the second period, scoring two more goals. Wayzata won by a final score of 5 to 0.

The final game in pool play was against Chaska Chanhassen. Chaska-Chan came out physical and fast. Wayzata felt the pressure and countered physically but were undisciplined,

resulting in five penalties in the first period. Fortunately, Wayzata was able to

score in-between being short-handed and ended the first period ahead, 2-0. In the second period, Wayzata again got a couple of bad penalties, but the defense was solid and the offense continued to pressure and again scored a couple of goals. After some locker room conversation during

handed for five minutes. Wayzata was able to kill the penalty for just over three minutes but it was just too much time to be too few players and Eden Prairie took advantage of the miscue and scored two goals in the last two minutes of the power play. The second period ended with EP in the lead, 3-1. With 14 minutes on the clock in the third period, Wayzata needed to score two goals. The team seemed a bit sluggish in the third but when they scored goal number two with five minutes to go in the game the team perked up. With less than two minutes to go, on a beautiful rush and a rocket of a shot, Wayzata tied the game and it was overtime. In OT, a tenacious effort and wraparound goal sealed the win at the 2:55 mark.

The Championship game featured a classic match up between Wayzata and Edina. It was a very even game, with both teams battling hard, but Wayzata scored the first goal about five minutes in. In the second period, Edina was charged with a penalty almost immediately. While Wayzata was unable to score on the power play, they did convert a second goal shortly after the power play ended. Edina didn’t give up and pounded the net with shots while Wayzata scrambled to get the puck out of the zone but could not and Edina scored a minute

and a half before the period ended. As the third period began, Wayzata was ahead 2-1. About halfway through the period, Wayzata scored their third goal and got some breathing room. With about two minutes to go, Edina pulled their goalie and was rewarded with a goal 15 seconds later. Wayzata scrambled the last minute and a half but was unable to clear the puck out of the zone however tough goal tending kept them in it and Wayzata won, 3-2.

Members of the Wayzata Pee wee A team are Bill Arndt, T Moss, Dan Myhra, Noah Fuhrmann, Max Zimmer, Cole Dougherty, Billy Duma, Jacob Holmers, Luke Paterson, Mark Senden, Eddie Chute, Hank Sorensen, Carter Fallen, Dylan Hewitt, Dillon Riley, Mack Byers and Alex Schilling. The Head Coach of Wayzata Pee wee A is Josh Fleming who is assisted by Jon Dubel and Levi Arel.



PeeWee A celebrates their first trophy-hoist of the new season

intermission, Wayzata came back on the ice in the third period, playing tough but disciplined. Chaska-Chan came back knowing they had to score and were relentless. A lot of the play was in the Wayzata zone, but outstanding goal tending, tough defense and tenacious back checking prevented Chaska-Chan from putting the puck in the net. Wayzata won, 4-0.

In semi-final play, Wayzata had to face the host team, the Eden Prairie Eagles. The first period the teams came out and played each other tough, with neither team giving an inch and the first period ended 0-0. In the second period, EP scored less than a minute in, but Wayzata answered with a goal ten seconds later and the score was tied 1-1. Then a Wayzata defenseman got his arms out in front of him on a check, sending an EP player headfirst into the boards and the result was that Wayzata was short

Wayzata 14A's Take Cake-Eater Tournament

The Wayzata 14A hockey team concluded a successful weekend of hockey winning the first place trophy against a very strong field of teams assembled for the annual Edina tournament.

The team started the weekend with their first round robin pool game against a very strong team from Eden Prairie and prevailed 7-2 to advance to their next game against Highland Central in which they were victorious 6-0. Next up for the Trojans was a game against Minnetonka that they won in a hard fought 4-1 victory. That left them with one game remaining in pool play against a very

tenacious team from Centennial that resulted in a 4-2 loss with the fourth goal being scored into an empty net after an all out effort was made to send the game into overtime. The Trojans advanced to the championship game Sunday with Edina Green as a result of finishing first in their pool play.

Sunday's final game against the other pool winner, Edina Green, was a very well

played game between two teams that know each other very well and always seem to play at the top of their game whenever they meet. The Trojans finished with a 2-0 win and the first place trophy.

The defense is anchored by Abby Croal, Becca Senden, Katherine Spurlock, Courtney Halverson, Brooke Nelson, and Ellen Winderl.

Forwards are Hannah Bangen, Sophie Leininger, Kaitlyn Klein, Carly Noble, Maddy Skoglund, Haley Hobday, Paige Sorenson, Morgan Hoglund and Sophia Shaver.

Goal tending duties are handled by Ava Lambert and McKenna Lorenz.

The team would like to thank all their parents and other supporters with a special thanks to their team manager Carol Croal and coaches Jon Radloff, Beth Brown, Jim Smith, Steve Persian, and Keith Radloff.



Wayzata Squirt Blue held a food drive on Saturday, November 27, to benefit Interfaith Outreach and Community Partners. The team members and coaches spread out across Plymouth and the West Metro in four groups to collect canned and other non-perishable foods. In a two hour time period, the team collected more than 437 different food items for donation! This was a great event for our boys to bond as a team early in the season while also benefiting such a worthy cause on Thanksgiving. The event was organized by Trevor and Rachele Nelko and Bill and Renee Riviere.



The team and coaches: Nathan Clark, Tate Czeschin, Kole DeRosier, Jacob Hoogenakker, Bradley Koskie, Jack Kubitz, Tommy Leisen, Ben Leuthner, Nathan Melnychuk, Cal Nauss, Tristan Nelko, Matthew Otto, Nathan Raska, Billy Riviere, Walker Smith, Matthew Sticha and Ike Taraszewski. Squirt Blue is coached by Trevor Nelko, Craig DeRosier, Darren Nauss, Bill Riviere and Corey Koskie.

The Squirt A team chose Interfaith Outreach and Community Partners (IOCP) as their community service project for the 2010-2011 hockey season. IOCP programs provide direct assistance and connect people with life changing opportunities and resources. In addition to a food shelf, IOCP offers programs that address five areas of need: Housing; Employment; Child care; Transportation and Community connections. IOCP services families living in Hamel, Long Lake, Medicine Lake, Medina, Minnetonka Beach, Orono, Plymouth and Wayzata.

Squirt A Scrambles for Donations

The Squirt A gang gathered at PIC prior to departing to collect non-perishable food items for IOCP! They just received their new team sweats, broke into five different groups and had one hour to go through neighborhoods and collect donations...of course it was a competition! They did great and collected a total of 311 items! Way to go Team!

Members of the Squirt A team are Callen Ambrose, Carter Anderson, Grant Anderson, Charlie Ankeny, Sarah Chute, Tyler Dingmann, Joe Greenshields, Brook Hanson, Ryan Hoglund, Cole Jacobs, David Kramer, Griffin Ness, Jack Ostepeic, Dalton Seesz, Drake Shaver, Even Sivets and Daniel Welshons! (Not pictured on IOCP day are David Kramer and Sarah Chute.) The Squirt A team is led by Head Coach Neal Cole with assistants Luke Peterson, Curt Smith, Brad Hanson and Tom Shaver.



Shoot, write, or report for the BlueLine Bulletin: wylablueline@gmail.com