



HERSHEY JR. 'BEARS'



NEWSLETTER

Team Managers: A Look Behind the Scenes

The team manager, the designated team Mom or Dad, is an integral part of every youth sports team. As our coaches manages what happens on the ice, the team manager has the big task of managing the activities off the ice. Managing a youth hockey team has its rewards and challenges. Duties of a team manager include keeping parents informed, finding game day volunteers, organizing off-ice team activities, deciding what tournaments to participate in, checking with the rink to see if a game is still being played after a big snow storm, and many other responsibilities to ensure their team has a safe and fun season.

In this issue, we'll read what goes on behind the scenes from the following team managers: Michelle Scott of the 14UA American team; Cara Laudenslager and Jenna Harris of the House and House Select teams; and Becky Leonard and Danielle Springer (co-managers) of the 12UA American team.

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TEAM MANAGERS

See how these parents manage their teams throughout the hockey season

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14UA American

Michelle Scott

I was never athletic as a kid. In fact, my forte' was the Performing Arts. However, as I became a mom and my kids grew to discover their own interests, I quickly found that nothing was more rewarding than watching my kids find their own niche - their passions became my passions. And so begins my story with Youth Hockey...



I've been a "hockey mom" for about 6-7 years now since my son joined his first "learn to skate" class at Hersheypark Arena. I've been a Team Manager once for Middle School Hockey and the last two years for the HJB Bantam Travel Team. My first experience as a Team Manager for the middle school team came from the need for a volunteer! No other parents had agreed to take on the role and so I raised my hand and let them know that while I didn't have extensive hockey knowledge or experience being on the ice, I absolutely could take on the organization piece. Even then, I was nervous about being a Team Manager when I was not 100% proficient in the sport of hockey. I think my son was nervous too!

The experience of being the middle school team manager gave me the knowledge and courage to once again raise my hand when the Bears needed a manager mid-year last year for the Bantam team. Did I know everything then? Nope. Being a travel hockey manager is much different than managing a middle school team, but the rewards have been much greater.

My day-to-day as a Team Manager is never the same twice. I might be scheduling tournaments or team events. I might be working with hotels on room blocks or restaurants on team lunch/dinner reservations. On game days, I might be scoring the game on the ipad or navigating schedule changes for practices. No matter what I am working on, I have the pleasure of getting to know each one of the families and coaches on our Bantam Team. In addition, it is very uncommon for a day to go by when I am not communicating with our head coach, whether he likes it or not!

(Continued on next page...)



14UA American

Being the manager can be challenging when trying to manage everyone's schedules and trying to make sure that I am representing the needs of most of the parents/players/coaches, as sometimes those conflict. Even with those challenges, nothing can top the experiences I have had and continue to have as a Team Manager.

The highlight of my Team Manager "career" thus far was watching the Bantams bring home the DVHL and AAHA Championships in 2024. It had been a challenging season for our team to overcome, but the drive and determination of our kids and coaches made their dreams possible. Being just a small supporting part of their victory will always be a proud moment for me as a manager and a hockey mom.

If I can give any advice, it would be: Don't be afraid to raise your hand. There is always a place for you to get involved. Be willing to learn and the possibilities are endless! Had I been too scared to step up because of my lack of knowledge of the sport, I would have missed out on numerous rewarding experiences getting to know amazing hockey families and finding my own love for the game. Most of all, I wouldn't have had the experience of supporting my son and his interests at this level which has been and will always be the driving force for my involvement. It didn't matter that I had never participated in youth sports as a kid - I was willing to learn and help support the valuable experience that my son is getting by being a part of a youth team. Get involved! I promise, you will not regret it.



Michelle is a second-year Team Manager for the HJB Bantam Travel Team. Her son, Evan, currently plays for the Bantam Team defense. When not in a hockey rink, Michelle also enjoys supporting her daughter Sadie's cheer squad for her school's football team.

House & House Selects

Cara Laudenslager & Jenna Harris

A team manager for a youth hockey team is primarily responsible for handling the administrative and logistical tasks, like player registration, paperwork, communication with parents, scheduling, and managing team logistics, allowing the coach to focus on player development and game strategy; essentially acting as the organizational backbone of the team.

Cara Laudenslager and Jenna Harris have both been managers of teams for the Hershey Jr. Bears organization combined for over 10 years. What this means to us:

Jenna and Cara agree this is so much more rewarding than being a volunteer for a youth sports team, both the players and their parents become like family. This is about developing relationships with people who become friends, and you enjoy the time spent together both at the rink and outside of the game. Yes, there are the aspects like administrative and logistics tasks, but you get to watch the players grow. We have had the pleasure of being a part of a core group players who have grown into young men, from Bear Bites to second year Bantams. These players have good sportsmanship, are dedicated to their work ethic, never give up, always do better and have developed friendships over the years and have such a love and drive for the sport.



12UA American

Becky Leonard & Danielle Springer



Becky Leonard and Danielle Springer are co-managers for the Hershey Jr Bears 12UA American team. This is Becky's third year as a team manager, having managed at her previous organization for two years. Danielle is a first year team manager.

Becky and Danielle work well together to ensure that anything that needs handled outside of coaching is taken care of. They work closely with their head coach to organize tournaments, hotels, team bonding events, mini camp, game day duties, and more. If any issues arise, Becky and Danielle support the team, parents, and Coach.

Though managing a team can be time consuming, they both love working together, supporting their wonderful families and team. They also love to spoil the team with swag bags for tournaments and special events, with the support of their generous team parents. Most game days you can find Becky running music from the penalty box and Danielle dancing in the score box!



Fundraising

Save The Date!

The 2025 Hershey Jr. Bears Skate-A-Thon

Monday, January 20, 2025

Hersheypark Arena

Check our website and Facebook page for additional details

5:30pm Registration Opens at Entrance 4 of the Arena

5:30pm Raffle Baskets on display and raffle sales in lobby of
Entrance 4

6:00pm Food opens and games in the Food court area

6:30pm Brief announcements from leadership

6:45pm Skating starts

8:00pm Raffle Basket winners are announced as well as top sellers

8:15pm Skating and Event concludes

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