



Watertown Hockey Association

Hello Hockey Parents,

I hope this letter finds you all well and you are enjoying your summer. I have enjoyed seeing pictures of many of our young athletes enjoying summer sports like golf, softball, baseball, lacrosse...and hockey? The annual golf tournament was a huge success with over 150 sponsors and 36 teams participating. This was my first opportunity to golf in this tournament and it was a great time! It was so much fun to see our Varsity athletes out there working and raising money for the association. Great Job - Jeanne Sheehan, Steve Sheehan and Lucas Deutsch!

As we prepare for the upcoming season, I thought now would be a good time to update you on a few things. Our board has been very busy this summer working on many initiatives:

Initiative 1 – Improve and enhance the player experience and player development

I am very excited to announce that the WHA board has engaged with Proactive Coaching to help us achieve our mission “To provide for the growth of Watertown Hockey Association players.” A speaker from the “Proactive Coaching” team will be coming in November to give a couple of speeches that I am hoping all of the parents and players will find engaging and informative. You have also probably noticed that we have been sharing some of their content on Facebook. I would encourage you to follow them on Facebook or check out their website for more great content on building young athletes; not just the player but the person!

A huge thank you to Jenni Wirkus for taking the initiative to seek this opportunity out and put it together.

Initiative 2 - Player Protection

A new concussion protocol program has been developed to get baseline testing done for our bantam and JV/Varsity players, along with a training program for parents and coaches.

Initiative 3 - Hiring a Chief of Hockey Operations

We are pleased to announce that Lucas Deutsch has accepted this position. To summarize, the chief of hockey operations job is to develop programming for the coaches at all levels of Watertown hockey. The objective is to create consistency amongst training at all levels and facilitate the development of all of our athletes as well as supporting the coaches at all levels. Of course, this was a bittersweet selection as it leaves some big shoes to fill for the Varsity Head Coach position. We are happy to announce the Jamison Spiering has accepted this opportunity and we are all looking forward to this new relationship.

Initiative 4 – Hiring an Executive Director

We believe that an Executive Director will be a huge asset to WHA. Developing consistency over the years with an ever-changing board, communicating with all of our parents and players and improving organization are high priorities for the WHA board. The hiring of an executive director will help us to achieve our mission: “To provide for the growth of Watertown Hockey Association Players.” We have 2 applicants and we will be announcing our new hire soon.



Initiative 5 - Create Development Opportunities for all players

Ice time has been purchased in Brookings for September and early October so that your hockey players can get some pre-season ice time and training in with their coaches. Additionally, we have recruited some instructors to come in and run a couple of camps in Watertown as soon as we have ice. The 4-wheeler fundraiser was very successful and its purpose was to make sure that these opportunities are available and affordable for **everybody**. Thank you, Jenni Wirkus and Lucas Deutsch!

Initiative 6 - Goalie Development

Lucas Deutsch proposed a goalie development initiative and we have helped several goalies to attend camps and some one on one training at the “Goal Crease” in the Twin Cities. We are working on other ways to help provide specialized training for our goalies throughout the season! Goalie is the toughest position on the ice...especially for parents! We are working hard to make sure they get some extra training and ice time.

Initiative 7 - Lobby for construction of a new 2-sheet facility and support the effort

I know we have been hearing about a new arena for a long time, but in the past months the city council, with the support and encouragement of our mayor took a huge step in the right direction by agreeing to put \$8.7M in the budget for the construction of the facility. The \$8.7M is a placeholder and is only sufficient to build a “bare bones” facility that would house two sheets of ice with minimal amenities and seats. Please thank your council members for supporting the ice users with this commitment and encourage them to help us increase the budget enough to build a facility that our community can be proud of and that will provide a return on investment for our city for years to come.

As you can see, we have a lot of great things going on for Hockey in Watertown right now. Please take a moment to review our Mission, Vision and Values on the next page. I am asking for your help in making sure that we can achieve our mission and vision. The weather is changing now and hockey season is right around the corner! We will see you at the rink!!!

Sincerely,

Eric Skott

Eric Skott, WHA Board President



Watertown Hockey Association Mission Statement:

To provide for growth of Watertown Hockey Association players.

Watertown Hockey Association Vision Statement:

To be the model youth development program.

Watertown Hockey Association Core Values:

Integrity, Respect, Fun, Sportsmanship, Safety, Growth &
Development

*We do this by emphasis placed on sportsmanship, teamwork,
respect for the individual, integrity and love of the game.*