

The WEHL Season will be starting earlier than normal this year and registration is open. Try-outs for all regions will be held in July, are posted on website and games will begin on August 8<sup>th</sup> this year. We have renewed our partnership with the Janesville Junior Jets and are excited about the addition of the Chippewa Steel showcase teams at the U16 & U18 levels (more information below).

If you are reading this communication, you are involved at some level in the Wisconsin High School Hockey, either as a coach, parent, or player. Entering our fifteenth year of existence and as the Vice Commissioner of the WEHL I thought I would take some time to share with you, information I think is important to communicate about the WEHL (Wisconsin Elite Hockey League).

A brief history: Under the approval of the Wisconsin Amateur Hockey Association, (WAHA), the WEHL was founded in 2006 to provide upper-level high school players the opportunity to further develop their skills and compete against like talented players, be cost competitive, minimize travel, and allow high school athletes to compete for their high school in fall sports. The goal of the WEHL is to develop and prepare players for their upcoming high school season. The WEHL provides opportunities for players with born between 2003-2008 at the U14, U16 & U18 levels.

Opportunities, in 2016 & 2017 the WEHL partnered with the Janesville Jets of the NAHL and fielded U16 & U18 All Star teams that both attended and played in two highly visible TIER 1 tournaments: NAHL Showcase in Blaine, MN and the Nike Bauer tournament in Chicago, IL. All these WEHL/JR JETS teams excelled and have competed very well in these events since. This year we are excited again to announce our continued relationship teaming up with the NAHL's Janesville Jets again, but also the addition of the Chippewa Steel to send U16 & U18 All-star teams to compete in these same tournaments and more without any conflict with our regular season play. This provides the WEHL's best players excellent exposure to both Junior and college scouts. This year there will also be an U14 introductory team that will go to one or two showcases in fall of 2021. Players participating with Janesville and Chippewa must also play WEHL as part of this partnership.

Coaching. The WEHL prides itself on having excellent coaching staffs in terms of experience with coaches who clearly understand the objective of **developing players** in a competitive and learning environment. Using our contacts thru the WIAA Coaching Association President Brian Brandt, Statewide Varsity Coaches, Ex Professional players and College coaches in the WEHL year in and year out boast top level coaches who are not only dedicated and knowledgeable in hockey but provide instruction in life lessons. **(Please see the testimonial letter also attached to the email).**

Practices and games; Scheduling of practices and games makes focused consideration for the student athlete in these areas; time to come home after school for dinner and rest, no play on Friday or Saturdays, a priority of the fall sport over attending a WEHL practice or game, and an excellent ratio of practice to game time.

Team Wisconsin (TW) association; The WEHL is in continual contact with Team Wisconsin and is the gate for developing players to progress up to Team Wisconsin. Over the years, several players who started the year or high school career as a WEHL player thru hard work and dedication being permanently called up to be a rostered TW player. All WEHL practices are open to TW players providing WEHL parents and players a first-row view of the skill level and talent that makes up TW.

Cost competitiveness; with excellent league play and limited travel WEHL players have no major travel costs such as hotels, meals, and extend transportation. Playing 2 games per day per weekend allows families to make easy use of carpooling to not only curb costs but also provide more free time to

parents for other family member activities. League play is limited to one day per weekend (normally Sunday games) allowing the athlete ample freedom to participate in fall sports or have necessary down time for academics, rest, and social time.

I trust the information provided above gives you greater insight about the WEHL and what to expect from both a parent and player perspective. WEHL alumni have been part of the past 11 state WIAA State Championship Teams, named WIAA player of the year, and dozens have been drafted into the USHL, NAHL, and NHL. At the U16 age group, the WEHL has won every Wisconsin Tier II State Championship since our inception 15 years ago and have advanced at Nationals to the finals.

To learn more about the WEHL or register for the upcoming season please visit our website at [wi-ehl.net](http://wi-ehl.net) or feel free to contact the following with any questions you may have:

WEHL Vice Commissioner  
WEHL Commissioner

Dave Kupsky 414-406-4229  
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Thank you for your time & interest in the Wisconsin Elite Hockey League.

Dave Kupsky  
WEHL Vice Commissioner / GM Supervisor