

Welcome to the Blue Demons Field Hockey Program!



**2019
6th Season**



Mission:

The mission of the Kennett Area Park and Recreation Board (KAPRB) is to offer quality recreational programs for the Kennett Area and to improve, develop, and manage Park facilities.

Blue Demons Field Hockey:

Our youth field hockey program is offered to K-8th grade as part of the Kennett Area Park and Recreation Board (KAPRB) non-profit programs. This is an instructional program with games scheduled, at all age groups, against other local leagues. We aim to create a positive and fun sports environment, teach effective field hockey skills, and develop a strong foundation of teamwork and sportsmanship, all while having a great time with the stick and ball!

Positive Sportsmanship:

One of the most important aspects of the game and the girls development at this stage in their lives, is the emphasis on positive sportsmanship, or as we like to say...sportsWOMANship! Please instill an understanding in your daughter that she represents the Kennett community, our Blue Demons program, her teammates, and herself as a player when she is engaging in games and practices. We instill a "TEAM FIRST" mentality and support all team members in an uplifting, non-critical manner regardless of age, grade, skill level, playtime, goals scored, etc. All teammates are to respect and positively encourage other teammates. Please talk to your kids about social media – any postings regarding the field hockey games, opponents, and teammates must be positive. *There should be **NO** negative postings, comments, or "Likes" regarding rude or unsportsmanship comments on social media.*

Our coaches, team managers, and committee members are ***volunteers*** and will give 100% effort to making this season an awesome experience. They are empowered to handle unsportsmanlike conduct as they deem fit, whether it is dismissing from practice, benching a game, or having players apologize. We strongly feel these youth programs serve as a foundation for how young athletes shape and grow in the years to come and want to set the right example from the start. We are here to have fun, learn and love the sport, and be kind to one another!

Equipment:

The following items are **required** for **both** practices and games:

- Stick
- Mouthguard (have a couple on hand, as they are easily lost)
- Shin guards**

Optional items

- Protective eye wear
- Cleats (recommended but not mandatory)

*Regarding the eye wear, US Field Hockey no longer requires eye goggles, therefore it is your decision.

Field hockey shin guards are not the same as soccer. The hockey ones are thicker and come down around ankle to protect that area from hits. **If players are not fully equipped with required items, they may be asked to sit out of practice or games to ensure safety first.

Uniforms:

- Reversible blue and white pinnies
- White, royal blue or black shirt/tank under pinnie
- Skort
- Leggings are allowed under skorts (colder weather)

If you missed ordering uniform pieces, you can purchase one directly from Blue Demons (limited sizes available)

<u>2019 Projected Teams and Coaches</u>	<u>Current Coaches & Team Managers</u>
Grades K – 2 nd = 16 girls (2 teams)	Mary Cunningham, Katie Butcher Team Manager - Meghan McQuiston meghanmcq3@gmail.com
Grades 3 rd -4 th = 41 girls (4 teams)	Kelly Kelly, Sherri Donnell, Jennifer Lafferty, Courtney Encarnation, Mandee Wentzel, Wendy Kotz, Melissa Scopio, Kristin Skean Team Manager - Christina Meko christinameko@yahoo.com
Grades 5 th -6 th = 47 girls (3 teams)	Chrissy Schwarz, Allison Guzzio, Rachael Coursey, Colleen Kauffman, Kristina Hanrahan, Donna McClellan, Meg Snyder, Michelle Kelly (Goalie coach for all teams) Team Manager - Becky Turnbull RRTurnbull@msn.com
Grades 7/8 th = 18 girls (1 team)	Lisa Stoddard, Kelly O'Hara, Sherri Donnell Team Manager - Kelly O'Hara kno_31@hotmail.com

Practice Schedule:

ALL practices will be held on turf fields at Kennett Legacy Fields at 629 S. Walnut Street, Kennett Square, PA 19348. There is overflow parking at the YMCA outdoor pool across the street. There are 3 fields and we will be on the first two fields - Field A and Field B.

K/2s: Tuesdays (optional) & Wednesdays - Legacy Field A 6:00-7:00*

3/4s: Wednesdays & Thursdays - Legacy Field B 6:00-7:30*

5/6s: Tuesday & Thursday - Legacy Field B 6:00-7:30*

7/8s: This is a "Games Only" league, so there will not be regularly scheduled practice days

*PLEASE NOTE that end times will get earlier as we lose daylight through the Fall. We will need to be off the fields before dark in order to abide by District policy. **It is important to check your emails each week to know what time practice ends - your age group team manager will communicate end times.**

K/2s - we are offering two practice nights, but we understand it can be challenging for the young players to attend both. Wednesday is the main practice night, and Tuesday is optional for those interested in more field hockey time. Play time in games will not be impacted if you decide 1 night/week is best for your family.

Game Structure:

K/2s: play half field 2 - 15/20 minute halves	6 vs. 6 no goalie
3/4s: play half field 2 - 25 minute halves	6 vs. 6 no goalie
5/6s: play full field 2 - 25 minute halves	11 vs. 11 with goalie

Games are typically held on Saturdays - times vary week to week. Projected Game Schedule attached at end of packet - times and details are subject to change. Weekly confirmations will be updated on Sports Engine.

Parent Code of Conduct:

We respect your opinions and feedback. Parents are just as critical to the success of our season as the players and coaches! We love your cheers and support during wins AND losses!!! As the *Terms and Conditions* state when registering, if you as a parent have a complaint or concern about how the coaches handled a game, please wait **24 hours** before contacting your coach. Please do not confront a coach during or immediately after a game.

When watching games, please set up your chairs on the opposite side of the field from where the coaches and players are set up. You will be invited over by a coach, if necessary, or to help your child or if they are injured; otherwise, parents are expressly forbidden to approach the team during game time. We encourage you to communicate with your coaches prior to games to voice ideas or concerns (i.e. daughter is hesitant to play, she really wants to try a certain position, etc.) so we can make this the best experience possible!

Please partner with us to communicate and share ideas. We are open to ideas and look forward to great parent and family involvement to make this season a success. It takes a village to launch, develop, and grow a youth program that can seriously help progress the game of field hockey in the area and with our kids.

Playing Time:

Generally speaking, playing time at all the age groups will be evenly distributed during games, however the coaches can use discretion to determine playing time if a player is not behaving in a manner that contributes to the team. If a player is consistently absent from practices, she will be missing out on skills and clarification of rules/game that will enable the player effective and safe participation in games. As a result, playing time in the games could be altered; situation dependent at the discretion of the coach. Please communicate with your coaches if your child will consistently miss practices so that a joint understanding between coach, player and parent can be established.

In addition, coaches will positively support and encourage, but not "force" a child to play in the games. Please recognize that playtime can seem uneven but it may be because your daughter is communicating to the coach they are not comfortable playing in the game on a particular day (esp at the K/2 level). We do not want to

create stress for the players and will handle according to the coaches discretion. Players can be part of the team by cheering and supporting their teammates.

Player Communication

Kennett Blue Demons has long supported a policy where we encourage each player to advocate for themselves. We want the players to communicate with their coaches. We know that you as parents are the primary communicators on their behalf, but as it stands to playing time, positions they prefer or are willing to try, or their role on the team, we want to hear from the players themselves.

Team Managers: Each age group will have a dedicated Team Manager. This person serves as the liaison between the coaches and the parents. Your manager will be your primary communicator. Each week, you will receive practice times and game schedule information. Please be sure your manager has all your email addresses and you pay close attention to the emails/communication they send.

If you have questions about your child's practice or game schedule, locations, time, etc., it is best to communicate with the Team Manager.

If you have questions about your child's skills, team concerns, or general coaching topics, it is best to communicate those topics with your Coach directly.

Sports Engine - You can download the Sports Engine app to receive weekly communication and schedules. **It is imperative that you RSVP with your daughter's attendance for each practice and game so coaches can plan accordingly.**

Referee roles:

We will have high school field hockey players who will have attended Umpire Training to ref the games. We are focused on SAFETY First. Calls will be made in the safety interest of the kids. We will attempt to keep the ball moving and in play as much as possible (so referees may not call it each time the ball hits a players foot). Please help us create a supportive and fun game environment for our players and our visiting teams! Referee calls dictate the game...comments or criticism should NEVER be conducted toward any referee. All are high school players! ***KENNETT PRIDE ALL THE WAY!***

KHS Senior Night

The KAPRB Blue Demons Field Hockey League formed a tradition of attending the KHS Field Hockey Team's Senior Night game. This is a fantastic night out of camaraderie and fun at the KHS Stadium cheering on the KHS Field Hockey Team. In addition to attending the game together, there is usually a chance for the Blue Demons to participate in part of a half-time show or some recognition. **Date 10/16/19.**

Parent Involvement

This entire program is ***POWERED BY VOLUNTEERS!*** We can't do it alone! Thanks to so many who have already volunteered and if YOU would like to help, please reach out to us directly. We always welcome volunteer assistance in the following roles:

- **Spiritwear Sellers**
 - A parent is needed to see to each age group at the sideline of practices.
- **Field Set-up**

- Each age group will need a parent to ensure the field is set-up for home games with cones, table for game clock and scoreboard, etc.
- **Clock Manager/Scorekeeper**
 - A parent is needed to manage the clock during games - please email your coach to help your team.
- **Administrative Roles**
 - Assist with organizing and managing the “behind the scenes” aspect of planning and running the league. We are in high-demand for more parents to get involved with the program!