

PRESIDENT'S LETTER
2009-2010 SEASON

Dear IYHA Families,

I can't believe the summer is over and the kids are back to school. This can only mean one thing - hockey season is almost here! The IYHA Board of Directors has been working very hard to gear up for our upcoming 2009-2010 season. I want to say a special thanks to Bruce Berry who has taken over the updating of our website. Hopefully you have visited the IYHA website recently and noticed the updated information and new look. If not, check us out at www.eteamz.com/IndianapolisYouthHockey.

The IYHA would like to thank Brad Lutsch and his Pro Impact Hockey crew and The Carmel Ice Skadium for their clinics throughout the spring and summer. All pre-registered players were eligible to attend these FREE clinics and the response was very positive. Hopefully we can get them again next year. We would also like to thank St. Vincent's for their title sponsorship again this year. This will be the 3rd year in a row that they have graciously sponsored the IYHA at this level. We are still looking for sponsors for the upcoming season. Please contact Marty Anderson martyandrewanderson@yahoo.com or Mike Gentile gentile@isgroup.org if interested.

Eileen Mills has already sent out all of the invoice packets to all pre-registered players via email. If you pre-registered, you should have received an IYHA invoice showing your balance due, a USA Hockey Consent to Treat Form to complete and return, and instructions on how to register your player with USA Hockey. Registration and Paperwork Day will be Saturday, September 19th from 10 - 2PM. There will be a lot going on that day: used equipment sale, FREE on-ice clinics at 10:45AM, 11:45AM & 12:45PM (each clinic will be 45 minutes – see attachment), information tables on sponsorship, All Star program, and fundraising, and Bub's Burgers will be there to sell their famous burgers. Mark your calendars and don't miss this exciting event!

If you did not pre-register and want your child to participate in our 2009-2010 season, please register as soon as possible and attend the Registration and Paperwork Day - our age groups are filling up quickly.

We will also have our All Star program again this year. The IYHA will field All Star teams at the Mite, Squirt, Pee Wee and Bantam levels. The All Star program is an extension of the House program and is geared toward the more advanced player. Prospective players must be registered in the IYHA and fulfill their house hockey schedule. The All Star teams will practice one additional night (approximately 14 extra practices) and play additional games and tournaments (the number of total games will vary among the age groups).

We have some great house and All Star coaches lined up for next season! The All Star coaches will be as follows: I will be the Mite All Star coach, Mike Callas will be Squirts, Mike Christie will be Pee Wees, and Jeff Gaisor will be Bantams. Teams will be selected during a two-session tryout on October 10th & 11th at the Carmel Ice Skadium. The specific times for each team will be listed on the IYHA website and in an attachment to this email. These tryouts are mandatory. If you foresee a conflict with a specific tryout date or time, you must get in touch with the coach or Mike Christie, All Star Commissioner (Christe_Michael_E@lilly.com or 502-6979).

Our IYHA House Program will begin on Monday, October 26th. If you visit the website, you will notice that grading is scheduled for evening of Sunday, October 4th with a make-up session on Monday, October 5th. Everyone will be assigned a team and have some team practices under their belts before our opening tournament weekend for the Guenin Cup, November 20 thru 22.

IYHA Picture Day will be Saturday, November 7th and will coincide with the IYHA Skate-A-Thon. We want to really promote the Skate-a-thon and make it a fun event for everyone as well as an effective fundraiser. We will also be doing another fundraiser during the month of November. We will be asking players to help sell Mike's Car Wash tickets. As we strive to keep registration costs down, fundraising is a great way to help offset the operating costs that our league incurs each year. Hopefully everyone will be excited to help out!

We will also have our Girls' Hockey program back for this upcoming season. Ken Tomozawa will again lead this group and are hoping that we increase our participation from last year. IYHA has received a grant from USA Hockey/MidAm District to "grow the sport". We are planning on using this money to purchase some "loaner" equipment for new players in our Girls' program.

IYHA will be able to assist first-time players in our regular House Mini Mite Programs as well by offering the use of equipment. In addition to the money from the girls grant, IYHA also received One Goal Equipment to loan to new players in the 4-7 or Mite-age group. We will be able to store this loaner equipment at the rink and players can check it out when they come and check it back in when their practice/game is over.

Finally, the IYHA will be re-introducing B-Mites this year. This program will be a stepping stone for the younger players coming out of Mini-Mites or an older Mite that has not played yet. Steve Cloud will be heading up this program. Steve will also be assisting in coordinating the Mini-Mites as well. The Board decided to implement this as a prelude to USA Hockey's American Development Model (ADM). The ADM focuses on skill development and identifying the appropriate number of practices to games for each age group. For more information on the ADM, please visit the USA Hockey website.

As always, I want to remind you that we depend on our volunteer base for everything we do at IYHA. If you are interested in volunteering your time as a Commissioner, Board Member, Equipment Manager, Coach, Assistant Coach, or have a special talent you think we could use, please contact me or Eileen at the IYHA Office, 815-0499 or iyhamail@iyha.com ! We hope to hear from you!

Thanks and looking forward to a great hockey season.

Brett Shahbaz, IYHA President
Email: brettshahbaz@comcast.net
Home: (317) 288-7756