



Moon Area Hockey Association

July 2007 Newsletter

Welcome to the first newsletter of the 2007 - 2008 hockey season. We have been busy planning for the upcoming season and wish to share with you all the information that we have at this point in time.

PIHL TEAM DECLARATIONS

The Moon Area Hockey Association has made formal declaration to the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Hockey League (PIHL) for three teams to compete this season. Moon Hockey will again have a Varsity team at the "AA" level along with a Junior Varsity team and a Freshman team. What we know so far about each team (as it stands today):

VARSITY: CLASS AA

The Varsity team will compete in the Southwest Region in Section 3 with the following schools:

West Allegheny
Chartiers Valley
Bishop Canevin

The regular season starts on October 22nd and ends on Monday February 26th.

Home games will be against: Latrobe, Greensburg Central, Elizabeth Forward, South Park, West Allegheny, Chartiers Valley, Canevin, Franklin Regional, Montour, Erie Prep, and Kittanning.

Away games will be against: Greensburg Salem (Kirk Nevin), Indiana (S&T Bank Arena - old Indiana Ice Complex), Thomas Jefferson (Rostraver), Peters Twp. (Southpointe), West Allegheny (AIA), Chartiers Valley (Mt. Lebanon), Canevin (Mt. Lebanon), Franklin Regional (Delmont), Montour (RMU), Erie Prep (Erie Civic Center), and Kittanning (Belmont).

22 games total: 11 home + 11 away.

JUNIOR VARSITY

The JV team will compete in Section 2 with the following schools:

Blackhawk	Montour
Peters	Wheeling Central
Canon Mac	Wheeling Park
North Hills	Morgantown

The games will be played primarily on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.

Home games will be against: Blackhawk, Montour, Canon Mac, Wheeling Central, Morgantown, Mt. Lebanon, Upper St Clair, Carrick, and South Fayette.

Away games will be against: Blackhawk (Beaver), Montour (RMU), Peters Twp. (Southpointe), North Hills (RMU), Wheeling Park (Wesbanco Civic Center), Chartiers Valley (Mt Lebanon), Baldwin (Ice Castles), Bethel Park (Bethel Bladerunners), and South Allegheny (Rostraver).

18 games total: 9 home + 9 away.

FRESHMAN

The Freshman team will compete in Section 1 with the following schools:

Beaver	Blackhawk	North Allegheny
Center	West Allegheny	Seneca Valley
Quaker Valley	Montour	Mars

The games will be played primarily on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.

Home games will be against: Quaker Valley, Beaver, Blackhawk, Center, West Allegheny, Montour, Seneca Valley, and Mars.

Away games will be against: North Allegheny (Warrendale), Beaver (Beaver), Blackhawk (Beaver), Center (Beaver), West Allegheny (AIA), Montour (RMU), Seneca Valley (Warrendale), and Mars (Warrendale).

16 games total: 8 home + 8 away.

COACHING STAFF

The Moon Hockey coaching staff for the upcoming season is:

Varsity: Head Coach: Craig Bioni
 Assistants: Dave Finnegan, Dennis Fleming and Steve Smarsh

Junior Varsity: Head Coach: Jeremy Swegman
 Assistant: Russ Warn

Freshman: Head Coach: Maurice Brazeau
 Assistant: Al Coleman

TEAM REPRESENTATIVES

Team Representatives are still needed for all three Moon teams. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Doug DeNardo via e-mail at ddenardo@rothmangordon.com or in writing to 1801 Barley Court, Moon Twp., PA 15108 by July 30th. If you have any questions, you can call Doug at 412.262.4840 or 412.496.7699 and he will be able to answer any questions you may have regarding the roles and responsibilities of a Team Representative. ***Step up and be a part of the team!!!***

MOON HOCKEY BOARD

The board for the 2007-2008 season is:

President:	Doug DeNardo (412-262-4840)
Vice President:	Rick Smitsky (724-457-6454)
Treasurer:	Renee Trice (724-457-5781)
Secretary/Registrar:	Nancy Mathe (412-527-8920)
Members at Large:	Bernie Reese (412-264-8662)
	Sue Coleman (412-262-1533)
	Melissa Szalc (412-262-3356)

PRACTICES

We have currently finalizing our contract with the Airport Ice Arena for practice slots for the upcoming season. The contract will start sometime in August. Tentatively, practices will take place on Wednesdays between 6:00 and 8:30 PM and on Sundays between 5:30 and 8:00 PM. As soon as the exact dates and times are finalized, we will distribute them as soon as possible.

This year we are pushing the Moon program to be "ONE" organization. All teams learning the same systems, being pushed the same way on and off the ice. This year's focus will be on more game situation practices. Skills will be developed during these sessions, but the focus will be on systems and game speed situations. One Sunday a month all the coaches will run a clinic for all the Moon players. These clinics will be broken down into 3 stations, where each station will focus on a different skill. (i.e., shot blocking, chipping, skating). We will put a plan together to teach a skill that we feel all teams can benefit from. Then the upcoming practices will have these skills applied to them so that there is immediate application of the skill in game situations.

During the season, all coaches will serve as a cross-over coach, meaning that all coaches will be helping at all the levels. The coaching staff is dedicated to pushing Moon Hockey to another level. However, to accomplish this goal, we will need the support of the parents as well. Please understand that practices are a very important component to achieving this goal. We understand that players are playing for multiple team, but please be sure that your coach knows when you are going to miss a practice so that the drills can be adjusted.

DRY LAND TRAINING

Moon will be starting dry land training early this year. We are scheduled to begin on Monday July 9th at 6:00 PM at the Moon Track. This training will be conducted Monday, Wednesday and Friday for 1-1.5 hrs. Dry land training is open to ALL Moon players. It is optional, but **STRONGLY** encouraged!

Other PIHL Information:

- This season is a rule change year for USA Hockey. Many rules were discussed, but the main rule that will affect play concerned tag-up offsides. The current USA Hockey rule is for immediate offsides. Last year we were granted a one year waiver on this rule and allowed to play tag-up offsides. At the annual USA Hockey meeting that occurred a few weeks ago, this rule change was voted on and it was decided that immediate offsides would continue for all levels of USA Hockey (PAHL and PIHL levels), except High School. However, under USA Hockey only Varsity is considered High School, so tentatively, our Freshman and JV teams will be required to play immediate offsides, but our Varsity team will play tag-up offsides. At a recent meeting with the PIHL commissioner, there may be some method to have all of our teams play tag-up offsides, so stay tuned for further updates.

ROSTERS and SUPPLEMENTAL TRY-OUTS

The May tryouts for each of our teams proved to be very competitive and led to several difficult decisions. However, this year, we find ourselves with a reduced roster from last season. As indicated above, we have enough players for three "pure" teams, however, to assist in lowering the player assessment fees and to provide some security in case of injury, we would like to add a couple players to Moon Hockey for the upcoming season. As a result, we are tentatively planning a Supplemental Tryout for all 3 teams the first week of September. Further information will be distributed as soon as it is finalized.

Therefore, please spread the word to any other Moon hockey players that may be interested in joining the organization for the upcoming season.

2007- 2008 PLAYER ASSESSMENT FEES

As indicated above, our total registration for the upcoming season has decreased by about 7 players. This reduction will significantly impact our operating budget. Last season the Airport Ice Arena significantly raised their rate from \$240 to \$300 per hour for practice ice. This season, they have given a slight reduction to \$275 per hour. This will help, but we have also found it necessary to reduce the amount of practice time by 1 hour per week in an attempt to keep player assessments at a similar amount as previous years.

This year, we will also include an additional charge to each player's assessment in lieu of any "mandatory fundraisers." With the busy schedules that our players have, including all of the practices, games, etc. (including those who play amateur hockey as well), many, many families have expressed to the board their desire to just add the cost of the mandatory fundraisers to the assessment. We have listened to this and have decided to try a "no mandatory fundraiser" policy this season.

You will be receiving a Player Assessment Fee Coupon Book, within the next month that will enable you to spread out the payments in an equal fashion. You will be receiving more information on this as soon as it is finalized.

FUNDRAISING

Although we have decided to eliminate the mandatory fundraisers as described above and instead include the cost in each player's assessment, this does not mean we will not support fundraising. In fact, we encourage it!!!

This season the board will return fifty percent (50%) of the net proceeds of any money raised through fundraising to the people who organize the activity. So if you have an interest in coordinating a fundraising activity, such as a spaghetti dinner, Texas Hold'em Tournament, Monte Carlo Night, Night at the Races, restaurant night out, etc., 50% of the net proceeds raised will be returned directly to the family(ies) that organized and work the event. The remaining portion will be added to the association's general fund to assist in paying for ice, equipment, etc.

If you have any ideas please contact someone on the board to coordinate.

In addition, as another fundraising opportunity for the organization, each team will sell the "shirts of their backs" to Corporate sponsors. For a sponsorship fee of:

Varsity: \$2,000
Junior Varsity: \$1,500
Freshman: \$1,000

interested Corporations will get their name or logo on the lower back panel of our jerseys. If one corporation would like to sponsor all teams, the cost would be \$4,000.

The person obtaining the sponsor will be awarded thirty percent (30%) of the net sponsorship fee (being the per team fee less the cost to manufacture and install the sponsorship nameplates).

So please communicate this to businesses in the area. If you have any interest, contact Rick Smitsky to coordinate. If you need any additional information, we can provide a "fact sheet" with more details that you can pass along to the corporation.

The sponsorships will be awarded on a first come, first served basis, so contact Rick as soon as you have a confirmed sponsor.

Airport Ice Arena may also make corporate sponsorships available for the boards, banner space above the benches, portions of the lobby, etc. These will also be available to all interested families and will be subject to the same thirty percent (30%) fee application.

JERSEYS and SOCKS

Please be sure to get down to Sportin' My Stuff at 148 McGovern Blvd in Crescent if you need to order new jerseys and socks for the upcoming season. Order early to be sure that you can have your jersey in time for any pre-season games. For those new to Moon Hockey, please be sure to select your uniform number. Your preference will be checked against the master listing to confirm it's availability. All teams wear White as the home jersey. The Freshman and JV teams wear Red as the away jersey, while the Varsity wears black for away games. Only rostered Varsity players need to purchase a

Black jersey. In the event that players are called up to Varsity, the team has several extra Black jerseys for their use in games, or the potential call-up may purchase a black jersey. For more information or directions, please contact April at (724) 457-7005.

WEB SITE

Last season Moon Hockey hired Dave Sinkavich of DDS Web Design to maintain our website. It was a vast improvement; therefore, we will once again use Dave as our web designer for this season. Our website address is: www.moonhockey.org. Each team will have a page dedicated to their season, and we will keep the site updated with the latest information, so please check the site often.

PRE-SEASON TOURNAMENTS

We again hope to host a pre-season tournament for each of our teams. We would again target late September or early October. We are asking for volunteers to assist the Team Reps and Board in organizing this endeavor. Please reply to this e-mail or give one of the Board members a call to discuss. We would appreciate any and all assistance.

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Please be aware that it is a Pennsylvania Interscholastic Hockey League (PIHL) requirement that each player remain in good academic standing to participate in game competition. This is not a Moon Hockey rule, but rather one from the league that all teams must abide to or risk forfeit. As a result, at several times throughout the season we ask the principals of each Moon School to confirm academic standing for athletic eligibility of each player. The same standards for all Moon sports apply to Moon Hockey too. Please note that no financial player assessment credit is provided to players that become academically ineligible; full payment still applies.

OTHER NEWS

- The Varsity team is again competing in the Mt. Lebanon Summer League. The current record is 3 - 1 - 0. Wins were over Mt. Lebanon, Baldwin and Serra. The loss was in the first game to Serra.
- Congratulations to **Nigel Crighton** and **AJ Coleman** who made the first cut in the "invitation only" USA Hockey Mid American developmental camp at their respective ages. Both Nigel and AJ competed against 160 players in their age group, and each player was selected to be one of 80 players to attend a camp at Penn State where they competed for placement on one of two 30 player teams. AJ was just informed that he was placed on a team that will travel to Kent State in August and compete against other mid Am districts.
- Congratulations to **Matt Reese** and **Jon Kostial** who were recently selected to compete in the Keystone State Games for the Southwest Region Midget and Bantam teams, respectively.
- Congratulations to alumni **Andy Reese** who was recently selected to compete in the Keystone State Games for the Southwest Region Junior team.