



# LHA *in the* Crease

## For Your Calendar

### Tryout Dates

The tentative dates for the first day of tryouts are listed below:

**U12 9/28**  
**Bantam 10/1**  
**Pewee 10/3**  
**Squirts 10/3**  
**U10 10/4**

Dates for U14 and Jr Gold will be announced at a later date. In an effort to continually upgrade the LHA's tryout process, every attempt has been made to ensure that no skaters will have a late tryout followed by another early the next morning. Schedules are being made to make certain that no skaters will skate two times in any given day. LFA and 8-9<sup>th</sup> grade football schedules have been coordinated with LHA tryout schedules in an attempt to have minimal overlap.



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## Registration Changes

Registration dates for the 2009/10 traveling hockey season is just around the corner. In fact, it opens up on August 7<sup>th</sup> (see more information on page 4). At this time, many parents will notice that the process has changed a bit.

USA Hockey is requiring that LHA's individual players register/pay online rather than the LHA sending payment and information directly to them as done in years past. Members will first go to [www.usahockey.com](http://www.usahockey.com) to register/pay with USA hockey and then use their USA hockey registration number to complete their LHA registration.

There will be no additional cost to members; it will just be broken down into two separate transactions. Details from USA Hockey are still trickling in. More information and instructions will be made available to you prior to registration on the [www.lakevillehockey.org](http://www.lakevillehockey.org) web site.



## New Ice Allocation Idea

### HOT TOPIC

Remember, in years past? Any ice was considered "good ice"...times have changed....and now so has the process of allocation.

Every year one of the biggest issues discussed, often at great length, is the fair allocation of ice among teams. The biggest hurdle is to understand that the LHA has a contractual obligation to a considerable amount of less-than-desirable ice. Fairly distributing all the ice among levels has long been a hotly debated topic.

In an effort to make the process as fair as possible, the LHA is going to emulate the model that has been used by the Eden Prairie Hockey Association for a number of years.

The process in a nutshell...approximately a month into the season, coaches and managers will all get together with the ice director and will basically go around the room, one team at a time, and distribute every hour of ice that the LHA has an obligation to take.

The benefit is obvious; everybody will get equal chance to get "good ice," and no ice will go unused. Calendars will be set for the season, eliminating delays experienced in previous seasons.



# Lakeville Hockey Association



## Fundraising Director Found!

The position of fundraising director has been filled. Rhonda Rasmusson has stepped forward to take over this important position on the LHA board. Last year the raffle created approximately \$70K in profit. Because pull tab sales are down, these funds were needed to pay off the bond to the City of Lakeville. Thanks to Robin for stepping up and helping out!

## New Tourney Rule Put in Place

At the July board meeting a motion was made and passed limiting tournaments in an effort to reduce the overall cost of hockey. One out of town tournament and two in-town tournaments will be scheduled for each traveling team. The new rule states that if there are 3 or more dissenting votes (one parent per player may vote) that subsequent tournaments will not be added to any teams' schedule. Voting is to take place by a secret ballot rather than a show of hands.

## Exciting New Fundraising Opportunity Available

There is a new *optional* fundraising opportunity available to help families defray hockey expenses for the 2009-10 hockey season. Tires Plus has graciously teamed up with the LHA to make available an innovative fundraiser that will enable families to pay down their *individual* costs of hockey.

The product being offered is an oil change card. Each card will sell for \$59.99. The card will entitle the buyer to four complete oil changes at various Tires Plus locations for less than \$15 per change and assorted coupons for other services. Each card sold will generate a profit of \$39.99. By offering a product that people will

genuinely need and use, the LHA hopes to create an easier selling experience for our kids. **Cards will be available for pick up in lots of five on Tuesday July 21<sup>st</sup> from 7:30-9:30 PM at Hasse Arena, and on Wednesday July 29<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-7:00 PM at Ames Arena.** A maximum of 10 cards per skater will be available with the first distribution. A \$20 deposit will be charged for each card dispersed. When selling the cards, checks will be made out to the LHA. After all cards have been sold, each family will turn in their checks and get the \$39.99 per card sold deducted from their first team payment. Address questions to:

[rhondarasmusson@yahoo.com](mailto:rhondarasmusson@yahoo.com)

### Tires Plus Locations Accepting Fundraising Oil Cards

The following locations will accept the oil change cards sold by LHA members:

- Lakeville, Kenwood Trail
- Prior Lake/Savage, Cty Rd 42
- Egan, Cliff Road
- Shakopee, 169 & Marschall Rd.
- Chaska, Crystal Lane
- Northfield, Clinton Lane
- Mason City, Iowa

## LHA In Need of Team Sponsors Now is the time to start lining up sponsors for your 2009/10 Team!

The sponsorship program will once again be offering team credit to those that recruit sponsors for the LHA.

It is not too early to approach a business and get the ball rolling. For each sponsor you recruit, your child's team will get a 30% direct credit. That means that for a Platinum Sponsor, the team would get a \$300 credit.

If you have questions regarding sponsorship, please contact Jim Lunneborg for details. [jilunneborg@farmersagent.com](mailto:jilunneborg@farmersagent.com)



## Volunteer Hour Policy Changes for 2009/10

In the June board meeting, a change in policy for volunteer hours was instituted. For the 2009/10 hockey season each family will be asked to do the usual concession stand duty. No changes there. The big change is that each family will also be required to volunteer for approximately 4-5 hours during the season. A fee will be charged to any families that do not meet their obligation. There will be various ways to meet this obligation, and there are changes being instituted on our web page to utilize a software package that will allow us to post opportunities on-line.

The change in policy was supported unanimously by all attending board members. As the LHA grows in size, the number of hours needed to run the organization smoothly increases. The LHA is the second largest hockey association in the state. A study of neighboring associations was done to make sure that what we're asking is in line with other associations. This change in policy should help alleviate the problem that often it was the same "core group" of people volunteering over and over. Many people have indicated that they have a desire to help, but cannot commit the hours necessary to hold a board level position.

The posting of opportunities on-line will streamline the process and let members volunteer for projects/jobs that they feel qualified and comfortable doing. It is the LHA's intent to communicate various opportunities throughout the season to members. Another objective is to have more members feel like they are "part of the process" and can be involved in the association without making huge commitment of time.

Many of the opportunities will in some way be connected to the various aspects of tournaments and tryouts. Numerous volunteers are needed to make each of these events a success.

A volunteer coordinator position was posted on the web site in June. Robin Lundberg responded to the posting and was appointed to this position in the July board meeting. Robin will keep track of both opportunities to post and obligations fulfilled by LHA members. Look to the LHA web site for volunteer postings in the near future.

## This Month's Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: What is a Level Profile? How are they used?**

**A:** Before every season starts, the LHA board is busy at work creating level profiles. A level profile is the official estimate of how many kids will be playing hockey at every level. This information is important because behind the scenes much has to be planned before the season can start. The ice director reserves ice for tryouts, the treasurer figures out costs of tryouts and builds that into the registration fees paid in August. Hockey Development members are recruiting outside evaluators. Level directors are planning the numerous details of tryouts.



**Q: What are the profiles for this season?**

**A:** The 2009-10 profile estimates 39 traveling teams and 65 total teams based on data from last season. The breakdown is as follows:

Level	North	South	Co-op
U8	---	---	4
U10	2	2	---
U12	2	2	---
U14	---	---	2
Squirt	6	4	---
Peewee	5	5	---
Bantam	3	4	---
Jr. Gold	---	---	2
Mite	---	---	16
Mite Prep	---	---	4

## LHA to Host Two Tournaments

The LHA will host two hockey tournaments this season. Last year's U10A/U12A Ignite tournament was a success and will be held the weekend of January 15-17. A PWB2 tournament will take place January 29-31<sup>st</sup>. Many volunteer hours will be needed for these two tournaments.

## "Giving Site" Up and Running on LHA Website

In June the **Giving Site** link was added to the LHA website. If you're purchasing anything on-line, please check to see if your vendor of choice is listed. Many popular vendors are there (Target, Walmart, Kohls, Office Max, Sports Authority) and it doesn't increase the price to go through this portal.

A portion of each sale will be donated back to the LHA. Money collected from this site will be channeled into the General Fund and will be issued as a credit back to players on their second team payment.

# Tidbits of Important Information



## **Minnesota Hockey Rule Change**

Minnesota Hockey passed a new Participation Rule (formerly Residency Rule) at its 2009 Summer Board meeting. Lakeville voted against this change at the June District 8 meeting. The District 8 representative attending the Summer Board meeting held in St. Cloud did not vote in favor, but an overwhelming number of other districts voted in favor, so it passed. Association participation will now be based on school attendance rather than residency. Details and FAQs can be found at [http://www.minnesotahockey.org/page/show\\_article/80470/29857](http://www.minnesotahockey.org/page/show_article/80470/29857).

## **Warm-up Sizing Dates**

Warm-up sizing dates have been set for August 29th, September 12th, and September 19<sup>th</sup>. In an effort to reduce the overall cost of hockey, the players will only receive jackets only this year. Time/location TBD

## **Registration Dates Set**

Dates for traveling teams (U14, Jr. gold TBD) have been set for August 7-17<sup>th</sup>. **Take note that there is only a 10-day window to register without having to pay a late fee.** The shorter time will allow a more accurate head count for tryout and ice planning purposes. Mite/U8/Mite Prep will register on September 11-21<sup>st</sup>.

## **Traveling "A" coaches have been appointed**

U12 North: Dan Tousignant, U12 South: Merlin Ravndalen, U10 North: Tony Winiiecki, U10 South: Brad Atol, PeeWee North: Brian Sensibaugh, PeeWee South: Troy Mertens, Squirt North: Tim Poehling, Squirt South: Jake Enebak, Bantam North: Bill Schommer. The Bantam A South head coach position is still open. Head and Assistant coaches for levels B and C, as well as all Mite/U8/Mite Prep coaches have until September 15<sup>th</sup> to apply. See the link on the LHA web page for coaching applications.

## **Jr. Gold Update**

Because of the expected increase in numbers for high school age boys, Jr. Gold is tentatively planning both an A and a B team for the 2009-10 hockey season. The Jr. Gold program has, in years past, fielded a single "B" team due to lack of players. Their successful program has yielded Lakeville Hockey two consecutive State Championships.

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## Calling All U8 and U10 Girls...

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### **U8/10 Dryland Clinic, Free On-Ice Clinic Offered**

#### **Dryland**

There will be a Dryland Clinic set up for any interested U8/U10 girls for three Sunday nights in September. The tentative dates are 9/13, 20 and 27<sup>th</sup> at Dakota Heights from 6-7:30 PM. This clinic will be offered at **no charge** and will address the needs of both the serious hockey player wanting to get in shape for the season, and also those just thinking about giving hockey a try. The Dryland Clinic will consist of stretching exercises and some shooting in a low-key atmosphere. There will be qualified coaches and adults there to help out. All that is necessary is your stick, gloves, helmet and running shoes. Weather Permitting.

#### **On The Ice! This Clinic is for U8/U10s new to Hockey**

Later in September, Date and time TBD, the LHA is sponsoring a **FREE** one-hour on-ice clinic for any U8/U10 girls that want to give hockey a try. No experience is necessary. This will be a fun, no-risk opportunity to see if the great sport of hockey is for you! Grab a friend and have her give hockey a try! We realize that not everybody will have all the proper equipment. A helmet of sorts is mandatory. Gloves/mittens, a stick and skates are recommended. Please come with whatever equipment you have. Qualified coaches will be on the ice with the girls. Questions? Please call Level Director, Brad Atol @ 612.636.5585.