

## **Portland Jr. Hawks Update: June 3, 2010**    [www.portlandjrhawks.org](http://www.portlandjrhawks.org)

**From:** Tom O'Connor, President, Portland Jr. Hawks ([president@portlandjrhawks.org](mailto:president@portlandjrhawks.org))

Hello to all Portland Jr. Hawk players and their families. I have been waiting to send out an update regarding the upcoming 2010-11 season as members of the Board of Directors are working on several projects that will have a positive impact on our association. That work is still ongoing, but now that June is upon us and we are close to opening our 2010-11 registration process, I want to share as much pertinent information as possible.

**Board Retreat and General Meeting** - The Board met for our annual retreat on two consecutive Sundays, April 25<sup>th</sup> and May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Priority topics covered were Board roles and responsibilities, 2010-11 season planning and budgeting, long range strategic planning, and our interaction with the local ice rinks and other organizations including the Winterhawks. Eric Lundgren, recently appointed to fill the remainder of David Rosenberg's term, will now serve as Treasurer. The Board has been hard at work since the retreat ironing out the details of plans made at the retreat. **There will be a PJH General Meeting for all interested members on Monday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at the Oregon Sports Offices East Banquet Hall, 4840 SW Western Avenue in Beaverton, to review PJH plans for 2010-11 and beyond and for Board members to answer questions from PJH members.**

**Summer 2010 3v3 Program** – We are still taking registrations for our summer 3v3 program, which will be held at Sherwood Ice Arena for all age groups. The summer session starts on June 13<sup>th</sup> – sign up today at [www.portlandjrhawks.org](http://www.portlandjrhawks.org).

**2010-11 Tier/Rep Program** - Though there have been some rumors to the contrary, ALL rep tryouts will be held on August 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> as previously announced, location to be determined. All players that wish to try out must be completely registered with both USA Hockey and the Portland Jr. Hawks prior to going on the ice for tryouts. Based on projected player ages and numbers we plan to field one 17-and-under team in the Midget division (1993-1995 birth years), but will consider a second 17U team if player numbers warrant it. We will have one Rep team at the Bantam (1996/97), Peewee (1998/99), and Squirt (2000/01) age levels, and will once again have a Mite Development Team (2002/03) that primarily plays in our Squirt House League. Rep practices will begin no earlier than September 20<sup>th</sup>, with the season extending through the end of March or early April. If you have any questions about the PJH Tier Program, please feel free to contact Tier Director Jason Oliver at 360-957-2500.

**2010-11 Coaching Program** - Coaches for the Midget Rep, Bantam Rep, Peewee Rep, Squirt Rep, and Mite Development teams will be announced by June 15<sup>th</sup>. The process for applying for House League coaching positions will be announced within the next month. If you have any questions about the PJH Coaching Program, please feel free to contact Coaching Director Greg Cheetham at [coaching@portlandjrhawks.org](mailto:coaching@portlandjrhawks.org).

**2010-11 House Program** – There will be significant changes to our 2010-11 House Program, the largest of which is dividing into a short fall development season and a winter “regular” hockey season.

The Fall Development Program (FDP) will be less schedule intensive than the Winter House League, and will allow experienced players to (1) play hockey AND another fall sport with minimal conflict, or (2) just play hockey, or (3) not play hockey in the Fall and just sign up for the Winter league. The FDP is appropriate for experienced House players, Rep players, and will also have a Midget (1993-1995) level in addition to Bantam, Peewee, Squirt, and Mite age groups. The Midget age group will be scheduled to minimize conflict with high school fall sports schedules. The PJH Rep schedule will dovetail with the FDP schedule so that Rep players wanting to participate may do so. Enrollment numbers in FDP will be limited to ensure a quality experience. Fall is also the time of year that players new to hockey will be able to attend rink based learn-to-play programs to prepare for the PJH winter season.

The Winter House League begins in early November and ends the last weekend of February. The league will be similar to previous seasons, only shorter, and will allow players to play fall and spring sports - in addition to playing hockey in winter - with minimal schedule conflict. The PJH Winter House League features Bantam, Peewee, and Squirt age divisions, with developmental programs at the Mite (2002/03) and MiniHawk (2004 and younger) age levels. PJH does not have a Winter House League at the Midget level, and we encourage players of this age (1995 birth year and older) to participate in high school hockey.

MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ADDRESSING CHANGES TO THE 2010-11 HOUSE PROGRAM WILL BE SENT OUT AND POSTED ON OUR WEB SITE BY MID-JUNE. If you have any questions about the PJH House Program, please feel free to contact House Director Lester Sparks at [house@portlandirhawks.org](mailto:house@portlandirhawks.org).

**2010-11 Registration** – We hope to have our online registration system up and running by mid-June if not sooner. Notification will be sent via e-mail and posted on our web site as soon as registration “goes live.” Like last year, there will be payment plan options.

**The Rumor Mill** – Lots going on in the local hockey community, and of course everyone wants the latest info. The Board of Directors has been active behind the scenes regarding several issues that have potential impact on our program. I will address a few of them:

- PJH and the Winterhawks organization have spent a lot of time developing a framework to work together to improve and expand youth hockey in the Portland area. This is ongoing and will definitely benefit local youth hockey.
- PJH is fully engaged with our local ice arenas. There are MANY rumors out there regarding one of our local rinks and whether or not it will remain open. Though we may see some behind-the-scenes transitions in the coming months, I am confident we will be skating at ALL THREE local rinks come September and we will be able to grow our sport.
- PJH is looking at formally bringing on professional coaching expertise that will help across the entire association. This is a work in progress and is taking significant administrative time to arrange, but is an area I am personally very excited about.

**That's it for now. I hope to see many of you on June 14<sup>th</sup> at the General Meeting!**