

Dear parents and players:

Prior to tryouts for the '08-09 hockey season, I thought it best to give all prospective players (and parents) more details and set expectations for the tryout process and beyond, should you be chosen for this team. First, I would like to provide some background on myself for those of you who don't know me.

I consider Valley Ice Arena to be a second home. I have played, coached and given private hockey instruction at this rink for the past 28 years. I started playing here at age 5 and participated in the Portland Jr. Hawks program until I was drafted by the Waterloo Blackhawks at age 16. After playing 4 years of Junior A hockey, I earned a hockey scholarship to Providence College where I received a bachelor's degree in Elementary Special Education. I have just now completed my 9th year of teaching. If you'd like to know more about my hockey experience or my coaching philosophies, please feel free to introduce yourself at the rink or give me a call.

I am excited to announce that Matt Greenlaw will join me on the bench this season as the primary assistant coach. Many of you know Matt Greenlaw from Sherwood Ice Arena where he gives hockey skating and shooting lessons, and served as hockey director. Matt Bardsley, Head Scout for the Portland Winter Hawks, will also be an assistant coach whenever his work schedule allows.

The three of us have coached for the Jr. Hawks program for many years. We truly love this game and, more importantly, we enjoy watching the boys build character as much as their hockey skills. We plan to demonstrate how much fun it is to work hard. It is our goal to foster an environment conducive to building a solid camaraderie between the players that will last well beyond the season.

The '08-'09 U-16 team will be comprised of 17 players as follows: 2 goalies and 15 skaters. The skaters could be any combination of forwards and defensemen. With a smaller roster, we are looking for only those players and parents who support our philosophy and coaching style. We expect players to honor their roster spots and we will not tolerate anything less than 100% effort. It is a long season filled with high expectations both on and off the ice. It's not a guarantee that all players chosen in June will be on the roster come March.

The team will play an independent schedule with about 50-60 games. We will seek competition with mostly AAA teams that will hold us accountable for an entire game in order to earn a victory. We will not look for easy teams to beat just to look impressive on paper. Players and coaches will travel together in vans or planes and stay together in hotel rooms. All players will be under the coaches' care on trips and the bulk of the travel costs will be included in monthly dues (see attached budget).

If there are any questions, please give me a call at 503.704.1018 or send me an email at [benstadey@gmail.com](mailto:benstadey@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

Ben Stadey  
Head Coach  
PJH U-16