

Fall 2012

# NEW JERSEY DEVILS YOUTH HOCKEY CLUB

## 8 & UNDER HOCKEY



Implementing the American Development Model to best nurture the next generation of players

## A HOCKEY BEGINNER'S FAQ

New to youth hockey? Let's get you started!

**Q: What programs does NJ Devils Youth Hockey offer for beginners?**

**A:** Learn to Play is our basic learn-to-play program. For the 2012 - 2013 season, it will be held from 11:45 am - 12:30 pm on Saturdays starting 9/22 at the Codey Arena in West Orange.

**Q: What is the cost of the Learn to Play program?**

**A:** The cost is \$275 for 8 sessions. You must also register your player with USA Hockey on their website [www.usahockey.com](http://www.usahockey.com), but this is a once-per-season expense.

**Q: What does a player need to participate in the Learn to Play program?**

**A:** Players must be in full equipment. This includes a USAH-approved helmet with a cage or shield, shoulder pads, elbow pads, gloves,

hockey pants, shin guards, hockey socks, skates and a stick. Athletic supporters and mouth guards are also recommended. Jerseys are provided.

**Q: Where can I purchase equipment?**

**A:** We recommend Non Stop Hockey, 509 Pompton Avenue in Cedar Grove, 973.239.8299, [www.nonstophockey.com](http://www.nonstophockey.com). Wherever you choose to purchase your equipment, we recommend that you visit a hockey pro shop so that there will be a knowledgeable staff person available to answer your questions and help you properly outfit your player.

**Q: Can I purchase equipment used?**

**A:** Our Club periodically holds used equipment drives and we sell the gear we collect to beginners at a deeply reduced price. The availability depends on what we receive so



we cannot guarantee that we will be able to completely outfit your player. We do not sell used helmets; these should always be purchased new as the foam inside dries out over a period of time and no longer offers sufficient protection. ***Our Fall Used Equipment Sale will be held on Saturday, September 15 and Sunday, September 16 from 8:30 - 11:00 am at Codey Arena.***

**Q: What is the best age to enroll in the Learn to Play program?**

A: Our program is most appropriate for players age 4 - 10, but the participants generally skew toward the younger end and we have very few children who enroll when they are age 8 and over. There are other programs in the area that better meet the needs of older beginners; you can contact our office for referrals.

**Q: Does my player need to be able to skate?**

A: Our program is designed for players of varying skill levels, including those with no skating experience at all. However, for young children or those who are easily overwhelmed, we suggest that they take private or small group lessons first, or at least skate during a public session while wearing their helmets.

**Q: How many players and coaches are on the ice during the Learn to Play program?**

A: We strive to keep the coach-to-player ratio around 6:1 whenever possible, depending on the number and skill of the players in the program. Players are grouped on the ice according to age and skill, and staff is allocated according to the needs of the groups. We strive to keep the personnel consistent as much as possible given that all our coaches also have travel team coaching responsibilities.

**Q: Is Saturday morning the only time you offer the Learn to Play program?**

A: Yes, in the fall and winter we only offer the program once each week.

**Q: When does your next Learn to Play program start?**

A: Contact us or visit our website for information about start dates and availability. Programs are not sequential, so you can always enroll your player mid-session at a pro-rated cost.

**Q: What comes after the Learn to Play program?**

A: The next program we offer is called Red, White & Blue Hockey. This is an in-house league, where they players are split up into teams and play cross-ice games. The next session of RW&B Hockey will start in mid-November



## HOCKEY FUNDAMENTALS

Once players have achieved a basic level of competency at ice hockey, the next step is the NJ Devils Youth Hockey Developmental Squad, where players receive more on-ice instruction as well as the opportunity to play cross-ice games against 8 & under players from other local organizations. For the 2012 - 2013 season, players born 2004 and later who participate in our Developmental Squad receive one weeknight practice, one or two practices on the weekends, and several cross-ice mixers both at our rink and at other nearby rinks starting in late fall.

2004 birth year players are eligible to try

out for our hybrid program which offers a schedule similar to that of our Squirt-level travel teams while maintaining our focus on skill development and practice. This includes two weeknight practices as well as one or two games most weekends.

Devils Youth Hockey follows the American Development Model as developed by USA Hockey in partnership with the National Hockey League. We believe that a high practice to game ratio, small games, and late specialization is the best route to the long-term development of our athletes. We encourage parents to learn more by visiting [www.admkids.com](http://www.admkids.com).

### What We Do

The New Jersey Devils Youth Hockey Club is dedicated to providing ice hockey programs that are focused on helping youth of all ages and skill levels to learn the values of teamwork,

sportsmanship, commitment, self-esteem, discipline and responsibility. The underlying goal of our Program, is to promote and instill these fundamental values within each individual to last for a lifetime.

### NEW JERSEY DEVILS YOUTH HOCKEY CLUB

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