



Putting Your Team In Contention

Steve Magnuson – RFYHA President

As the mid-point of the season approaches RFYHA members should take a moment to proudly reflect on the status of the association. We have record membership, competitive hockey teams, quality ice, and a high level of community engagement - a great deal to be thankful for. This is all made possible through your generosity and volunteerism as co-owners of this organization and I extend each of you my personal thanks.

Over the next month many of our teams will travel to away tournaments and they will take with them our most important organizational asset, the RFYHA reputation. As such, I am personally challenging each team to put themselves in contention – not only for a tournament trophy – but more importantly for the sportsmanship award. Our standout sportsmanship at away events not only improves our reputation, but it cements River Falls as a destination for quality hockey in the minds of other organizations – driving tournament registration and game attendance.

While representing RFYHA at away events take a moment to compliment facility staff, have the team sign a card for an opponent who may have been hurt, keep positive in the stands, and display superior respect for opponents and officials. In the end a win will be remembered for a few weeks, but a reputation for standout sportsmanship spans seasons.

Off-Ice Hockey Operations Update

Jody Christensen – RFYHA Vice President

The season is off to a great start with record registration. RFYHA now has 167 skaters from 131 member families, an increase of 21% versus last season. Here are a few tips to be sure you are on track to close out the season successfully:

- Volunteer hours must be completed by April 1st, 2015. Your progress in completing your volunteer hours can be viewed at <http://rfhockey.com> and opportunities are available for sign-up on the bulletin board at Wildcat Centre. Remember to record your hours in the log book in concessions to get credit!
- Tournament hosting, made possible with your volunteerism, covers more than 20% of the cost for each skater and helps keep registration fees low. Please make every effort to fill designated volunteer spots during our upcoming tournaments
 - Pony Tail Classic Jan 9-11 & Peewee A/B Jan 16-18
- Each team in the association has a board member liaison that can address questions or take feedback. If you don't know your teams board liaison ask your team manager and they can put you in touch.
- Background checks are complete for all coaches, team managers, locker room supervisors, and board members. This year we are also required to complete a new training program known as SafeSport. More information on the SafeSport program can be found at <http://USAHockey.com>.

On-Ice Hockey Operations Update

Tim LaVold – RFYHA On-Ice Operations Coordinator

I would like to start by extending a special thanks to ALL coaches for their time and dedication. We are fielding competitive hockey teams across the board and our commitment to the American Development Model (ADM) of hockey development is paying off. You can learn more about the ADM model and what to expect for your skaters hockey experience at <http://www.ADMkids.com>.

REMINDERS FOR PARENTS – thanks in advance for ensuring your players are on-time and ready for games and not yelling from the stands. It is important to allow the kids to make their own decisions with their coaches guidance.

Fundraising Update

Shelly Thompson – RFYHA Fundraising Coordinator

Fundraising efforts cover 20% of the cost for each RFYHA skater. While our mandatory fundraisers have been a huge success so far this year, we have many optional fundraisers throughout the year that help minimize your registration fees. We appreciate your help in these efforts!

- Raffle tickets were due December 15th. Beginning in January winners will be drawn monthly and checks will be mailed directly to them. Curious to see if anyone you sold to won? Check the Fundraising page at <http://RFHockey.com>.
- The Pizza fundraiser was a huge success last year, generating \$17,000 for RFYHA. Order forms are due in concessions no later than January 21st this year.



Finance Update

Neil Accola – RFYHA Treasurer

At RFYHA we work hard to make hockey financially accessible to everyone – only about 20% of income is from registration fees. Your volunteer hours and fundraising make up the bulk of the difference. RFYHA is unique in that we wholly own Wildcat Centre and operate it without employees or financial support from the city. This ownership provides the advantage of more ice time, reasonable practice times, and schedule flexibility that many other associations do not have.

Community and member donations are welcome at any time. RFYHA is a tax-exempt 501c3 organization meaning donations to our association are tax deductible and greatly appreciated.

RFYHA AVERAGE INCOME & EXPENSE PER SKATER

Concessions & Other, \$194	Taxes & Fees, \$79
Sponsors & Community Events, \$210	Concession & Fundraising, \$114
Facility Rental & Hosted Events, \$256	Maintenance, \$117
Fundraising, \$309	Hockey Fees & Officials, \$310
Registration Fees, \$344	Utilities & Insurance, \$460
Tournaments, \$366	Mortgage, \$599
Income (\$1,679)	Expenses (\$1,679)

Communications & Public Relations

Janel Rasmussen – Marketing Coordinator & Board Secretary

Community sponsorship and events make up nearly 15% of RFYHA’s income. It is important that we support our sponsors in our daily buying and let them know with every transaction that we are doing business with them because they support RFYHA.

- Visit the sponsor page at <http://RFHockey.com> next time you go out to be sure you are doing business with a sponsor.
- Know a local business that would like to sponsor? Contact Janel Rasmussen – we have opportunities at all levels.
- RFYHA continues to partner with the West Wind to offer Bingo every Monday. RFYHA receives an average of \$200 income per week from this activity - we truly appreciate the support of the West Wind.
- RFYHA apparel (hats, sweatshirts, ...) is available at St. Croix Sports in Hudson. We appreciate their sponsorship and help enhancing the RFYHA brand.
- The next RFYHA board meeting will be held on January 14th at 6PM at Wildcat Centre Arena. Minutes from previous board meetings can be found at <http://RFHockey.com>

Wildcat Centre Events Update

Frank Linn – RFYHA Events Coordinator

Proceeds from rental and hosted events at Wildcat Centre cover 15% of the cost for each RFYHA skater.

- Wildcat Centre is a great place to host your birthday party. Rental includes one hour of ice, rental skates, and use of the mezzanine for cake and presents. Cost is \$100 for member families, \$140 for non-members. Contact svmagnuson@gmail.com to reserve ice.
- May 2nd RFYHA will host a local Call of Duty gaming tournament at Wildcat Centre arena. Other events planned for this summer include a sportsman show and a military memorabilia show. If you have an event idea, contact Frank Linn.

Ice Engineering Update

Paul Wilson – RFYHA Ice Engineer

The compressor systems keeping our ice frozen have been functioning well this season and the new Zamboni coupled with a dedicated group of volunteers for weekly ice maintenance have kept the ice in great shape.

- View our time-lapse video of the ice-in procedure at <http://youtu.be/C3KGrVz9MI8>. Taking the arena from concrete to painted ice in a few weeks is no small task!
- RFYHA will be flooding the outdoor hockey rink as soon as temperatures allow. Please contact Paul Wilson if you are interested in helping.
- If you are interested in assisting with ice maintenance throughout the year please contact Paul Wilson. Ice maintenance takes place between 10PM and 1AM on Wednesdays.
- Recent compressor system and lighting upgrades have improved efficiency and our ability to maintain a consistent low ice temperature.
- If entering the compressor room to turn on lights for your practice, please refrain from turning on fans, heaters, or dehumidifiers unless authorized to do so by a board member.

Facility Maintenance Update

Frank Linn – RFYHA Maintenance Coordinator

RFYHA wholly owns and operates the Wildcat Centre facility without any employees. As members, you co-own the facility with all other association members. We ask that all members take initiative in addressing cleaning and maintenance issues related to our facility.

- There will be no mandatory housekeeping assignment for members at Wildcat Centre this year, as there were previous years - if you see an area that needs to be addressed, we appreciate your initiative in taking care if it
- The mezzanine area is for quiet viewing of hockey events. Sticks, balls, and pucks are not allowed in the mezzanine area as they can damage the walls.
- As a reminder, the last team leaving Wildcat Centre in the evening is responsible for locking the door and shutting off the lights. Contact a member of the facilities team if you have questions about evening shutdown procedures.