



# WHA Monthly e-Newsletter

## July 2021



**Board of Directors.** We are excited to announce a new President of the Board! At the July 2021 reorganization meeting, the Board of Directors unanimously approved the nomination of Amy Roberts as President of WHA. Amy previously served in the role of Vice President. She will take over for Mary LeBlanc, who has served as WHA President for the last several years. Mary has kindly agreed to remain in an executive position on the board, now fulfilling the role of Vice President. We wish Amy well in her new role and look forward to her leadership of WHA!

While we are excited to welcome Amy, we must extend a great thank you to Mary for her time, dedication, and commitment to WHA in her role as President. Mary has served on the Board for a number of years. Prior to the 2019-20 season, Mary took over as President of WHA. As we all know, the chaos and disruption from the covid pandemic abruptly ended our 2019-20 season and cancelled the Laurel Tournament. Mary continued to lead our organization through uncharted territory, season disruptions and ever-changing rules and regulations. Without her hard work and dedication, the entire 2020-21 season and the 50th Anniversary Laurel Tournament would not have been such a success. We thank you again Mary for your continuing commitment to WHA!

**WHA Board Meeting.** The [July 8, 2021 Board meeting minutes](#) are now posted on our website. Please see the "Board of Directors" section of our website to review the meeting dates and times.

**Season Practices.** Team practices begin on the week of August 16, 2021. Each age group from Mites to Midget will have seven (7) on-ice practices prior to the Labor Day weekend. As you may be aware, the arena is not open on weekends prior to Labor Day. Following the Labor Day weekend, the arena will be open during traditional hours. WHA teams should expect to begin a typical practice schedule of one-weekday, two-weekend ice slots after Labor Day. Please see the WHA website calendar or your Sports Engine app for the various practice dates and times. Contact your team manager with any questions about practices or ice time.

As we mentioned last month, exciting news is on the way regarding on-ice development. The WHA board has added additional weekday practice time for the 10U and older age groups for this coming season. This has caused a slight shift in the traditional practice schedule.

**TUESDAYS.** The most notable change is for the Mite age group (and In-House), which will now practice on Tuesday evenings from 7:20 pm to 8:20 pm. The two (2) remaining Tuesday ice slots (8:30p–9:30p and 9:40p–10:40p) will serve the 10U – 16U teams, which will rotate between the Nick Battista Clinic (two times per month) and station-based practices run by the WHA coaching staff.

**WEDNESDAYS.** The Wednesday practice schedule will operate as follows through the duration of the season.

6:15 PM to 7:15 PM	10U Teams
7:25 PM to 8:25 PM	12U Teams
8:35 PM to 9:35 PM	14U and 16U Teams (Shared two of three weeks)
9:45 PM to 10:45 PM	14U and 16U Teams (Full ice every third week)

We believe this revised schedule maximizes ice time and development opportunities for all age groups. Both the additional team practice time, as well as the optional training opportunities, will allow our players to improve their on ice development and overall team play. With each of these additions, we keep pushing to increase the value of our programming as compared to the overall dues structure. Our aim is to continue improving the overall organizational value within the local hockey community. While dues and costs of other local hockey organizations continue to skyrocket in the surrounding areas, we have been



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able to maintain a more affordable product with greater offerings than you will find elsewhere. However, we would not be able to do this without the support of the City of Greensburg. Our continued thanks goes out to the City for a longstanding partnership that enables us to offer quality youth hockey right here in our local community!

**Sports Engine.** Please refresh your app if you do not see your current team roster or the August practice schedule. You may need to log out and back in for the reset to take place. Don't forget to check your Notification Settings if you are missing out on messages or alerts. Coaches and families can feel free to begin using the Sports Engine features to communicate with your teams.

**Fundraising Credits.** As a reminder, all fundraising credits from December 2020 to current are accounted for and will be added to your Sports Engine account balance in the near future. We have encountered a few issues with applying fundraising credits in the Sports Engine registration settings. As a further reminder, all fundraising credits received through November 2021 will be applied to this season's account balance. All fundraising credits from December 2021 through the end of the season will count toward next season's dues.

**Summer Deck and Dryland.** Last week was the final session for dryland training at Kirk Nevin. Thank you to all of the players and coaches who participated in these sessions. Teams were able to use the arena surface for inline skating, dek hockey and general dryland training. Thank you to the Kirk Nevin arena staff for offering and facilitating this opportunity to the WHA program!

**16U Midget #2 Team.** If you know any eligible 16U skaters, or even second year 14U skaters, please refer them to WHA. We are still looking for a few more skaters to finalize the roster for the 16U team #2 coached by Caleb Snyder. The roster is almost complete, but we still hope to gather a few additional players for this team to ensure a properly sized roster for the coming 2021-22 season.

**USA Hockey Rule Changes.** There will be a few USA Hockey rule changes for the 2021-22 season. [Every four years USA Hockey considers and adopts various rule changes.](#) Some of the major changes are:

Rule 630(d) – Offside – Eliminates tag up offsides at all age groups. Immediate offside is now applied.

Rule 624(b) – Icing the Puck – Icing will be called, even when shorthanded, at all age groups.

Rule 402 – Minor Penalties - The length of a penalty depends on the age group/length of the period. For periods 12-minutes or less the minor penalty length shall be 1:00. The minor penalty time shall be 1:30 for more than 12 and less than 17-minute periods and 2:00 for periods 17-minutes in length or greater

For a listing of all new rule changes, please see the [summary on the USA Hockey site.](#)

**In-House Program.** The WHA In-House program is open to all beginner players up to age 10. If you know of anyone interested in playing hockey or learning the sport, please refer them to this program. The In-House season will begin on October 5, 2021 and continue through the Laurel Tournament. In-House dues are \$375 through November 30. After November 30, the dues are \$300 for the remainder of the season. Enrollment is open through the Laurel Tournament. The In-House program will again practice with the Mite age group this season, which will take place on Tuesday evenings from 7:20 pm to 8:20 pm. In-House is a 'practice only' program, and does not participate in games until the Laurel Tournament. For more information, please reach out to Sarah Peck ([sarah.peck@me.com](mailto:sarah.peck@me.com)).

**Little Pens Program.** The Little Pens program has been advertised on our website and social media accounts. The program, for beginner players ages 5 to 9 years old, will start on Saturday,



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September 18, 2021 and wrap up on November 6, 2021. If you know anyone interested in this program, please direct them to our website or the [link on our Facebook page](#).

**12U Girls Team.** We regret to announce that the WHA 12U girls' team will not take place this season. We were simply unable to generate enough registration to fill out a full team roster. Fortunately, several of the players who were going to play on this team were able to fill roster spots on the various co-ed WHA teams. We plan to again push for the 12U girls team heading into next season.

**Supplemental Tryouts.** WHA will not be holding individual supplemental tryouts as we have in prior seasons. For any new registrations or players looking to be added to an existing team roster, the new player will attend the first week of team practices in their respective age group. Following completion of the practice(s), the player may be offered a roster spot on one of the teams in their particular age group. For questions, please contact Coaching Coordinator Denny Zeravica ([dzeravica@comcast.net](mailto:dzeravica@comcast.net)).

**Fundraisers. TIP BOARDS.** WHA completed its first 'Tip Board' fundraiser effort. Congratulations to WHA member Patrice Palmiere for winning the Xbox Series X.

A new Tip Board will be posted soon. **Like and Share** the fundraiser Facebook posts to help our organization gain a broader base for not only our hockey endeavors, but also to improve our fundraising efforts. The more items we are able to sell, the more funding we are able to bring into the organization. Each completed tip board adds a few hundred dollars profit to the organization. By adding additional revenue, we are able to keep dues lower while increasing our programming, ice time, equipment and organizational value. Thank you to all of those who purchased tips and to those who assisted our organization just by Liking and Sharing the posts.

**SUB SALES.** The Marianna's sub sale dates for this season are as follows:

Order Due Date	Pickup Date 9:30am/ Nevin
9/3	9/11
10/8	10/16
11/5	11/13
12/3	12/11
12/28	1/8
2/4	2/12
3/4	3/12

If you have questions about this or any other fundraiser, please contact Amy Roberts for more information. ([atominson419@icloud.com](mailto:atominson419@icloud.com)).

**NOTHING BUNDT CAKES.** A fundraiser for Nothing Bundt Cakes is being considered. More information to follow.

**-WHA Board of Directors**