

What to Expect from Otsego County Hockey Association

(2019-2020 Season)



*Each level of play will have varying player and parent expectations. This document will help serve as a guide to help give parents and players a baseline of what they should prepare for as they navigate through each division of play. Please refer to OCHA bylaws and policies found at www.gaylordhockey.com for further information.

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About OCHA:

- OCHA is a private, not-for-profit organization made up of players from Gaylord, Otsego County and the surrounding areas.
- Each team (6U level and higher) will have a head coach and at least one assistant coach as well as a team manager.
- All OCHA board members, coaches and team managers are parent and community volunteers.
- OCHA is supported by registration fees, grants, fundraising, sponsorships and other donations.
- OCHA is a community organization and each player, parent and volunteer will need to put their best effort into representing Gaylord and Otsego County. The more we each do, the better the experience for our kids.
- OCHA uses the SportsEngine App for scheduling and other important information. Please utilize this to stay updated.
- OCHA, coaches and team managers also communicate via email and text message. Please make sure OCHA has an active email address and phone number.
- Information regarding OCHA can also be found on our Facebook page and our website, www.gaylordhockey.com.

OCHA Board Of Trustees:

Mandy Kelly President/ Head of Program

JT Aude Vice President

Annie Sorenson Treasurer

Corrie Smith Secretary

Jamie Chafer Coaching Director

Katie Kucharek Registrar

Lindsay Kline Travel Director

Nathan Mattson Non-Checking Director

Ed English Checking Director

Jess Rich ADM Coordinator

Andrea Kirkby Public Relations & Website

The OCHA Board Of Trustees can be reached by email. Email addresses can be found at www.gaylordhockey.com

Fundraising:

- Every player is required to do OCHA fundraising, the amount needed depends on the team your player(s) is on. Our association does two types of fundraising:
 - Discount Cards- These cards have discounts to local businesses around Gaylord. They sell for \$15 each.
 - Raffle Tickets- These tickets are sold for \$10 each, a portion is filled out and returned to the OCHA mailbox just outside the Sportsplex Pro Shop. Beginning in January, every week for 10 weeks straight, an OCHA board member will pull (3) \$100 winners plus a bonus \$500 winner at the end of the season.
- Fundraising is paid for in full up front at the time of registration, the player then sells the discount cards and raffle tickets to recoup their money.
- Fundraising will be available for pickup the night of walk-in registration Sunday, September 22, 2019 from 2-5 PM.
- Extra fundraising may also be purchased to help pay down your players ice fees. It would need to be paid up front, then the player can sell to recoup the funds.
- Any questions regarding fundraising can be directed to Annie Sorenson at annieochatreasurer@yahoo.com.

IP (Instructional Program):

- The OCHA IP program is the first stage in a player's house hockey career and is available for 2014 birth years and older, both male or female.
- Ice fees are **FREE** to IP thanks to the William and Linda Muzyl Grant of the Otsego County Community Foundation.
- A **copy** of the players birth certificate will need to be turned in during walk-up registration or on the first night of practice. There will be a table out front with OCHA representatives to help assist with collecting those and any other questions you may have.
- The \$50 registration fee is waived for all first time IP players.
- Each player will be required to sell \$110 in fundraising (6 discount cards and 2 raffle tickets). This fundraising will need to be paid before the players first night on the ice.
- USA hockey registration fee of \$46 will need to be paid during the registration process for birth years 2012 or older. For birth years 2013 or younger, the registration fee is waived.
- The IP program is set up as a 12-week session, running on Tuesday nights, beginning October 15, 2019 from 5:30-6:20 PM.
- After 9 weeks of the IP program, players can then be evaluated by a coach and moved to their age appropriate team. (Note: This evaluation can also be done prior to the 9 weeks if the player possesses the skill and the coach agrees to moving the player up). The player would then pay those prorated ice fees for that team.
- If the player chooses not to move up to their age appropriate team, they can finish out the remaining 3 weeks of the IP program.
- The Otsego County Hockey Association (OCHA) IP program is designed to give parents the opportunity to allow their children to try and participate in the sport of ice hockey.
- **Full equipment is required.** Our association has a limited number of rental bags for a \$50 fee. **This bag does not include a helmet, skates or sticks**, but has all the other equipment needed. The bags will need to be returned at the end of the season and \$25 will be refunded to the parents.

- The IP players will participate in (1) jamboree (small game setup) in the month of December.
- Parents will be **required** to help in some form with the jamboree.
- Practices and games are typically only canceled if the Sportsplex is closed or an opposing team cancels. Please get your players to practice and onto the ice on time. We typically only have 50 minutes of ice time, so allow time to get them dressed to take the ice at the start time of your practice or game.

6U (Mini Mites):

- 6U is for birth years 2013 or 2014
- The cost for 6U is as follows:
 - \$50 Registration Fee (**Paid before September 28, 2019, late registration fee is \$75**)
 - \$220 ice fees (broken down in to 3 payments Oct. 1, Nov. 1 & Jan. 1)
 - \$110 Fundraising Fee (6 discount cards & 2 raffle tickets.)
 - \$46 USA Hockey Registration Fee
- 6U follows the ABC's of ADM (American Development Model). Your child will learn Agility, Balance and Coordination. Fun & Fundamentals. Keeping things fun and more age appropriate while helping every player to improve his or her fundamental skills.
- Each team will practice twice a week. 6U practices are on Tuesdays from 5:30-6:20 PM and on Thursdays from 5:30-6:20 PM starting October 8, 2019.
- Teams will participate in various jamborees throughout the season.
- It is **mandatory** that all families volunteer to help throughout the season with home jamborees and games.
- 6U games are played on either half ice or cross ice.
- Games are played four (4) on four (4) with a goalie. No score is kept on the scoreboard.
- It is each player/parent's responsibility to make sure each player attends **all** team practices, games, jamborees and team functions. We all have busy schedules, so please communicate with your team coach/ team manager if you need to miss a day.
- Practices and games are typically only canceled if the Sportsplex is closed or an opposing team cancels. Please get your players to practice and onto the ice on time. We typically only have 50 minutes of ice time, so allow time to get them dressed to take the ice at the start time of your practice or game.

- Each player is responsible for providing their own equipment. Player's helmets must have a sticker displaying a current date of expiration.
- Each player will sign a Code of Conduct and will be required to abide by the Code of Conduct at all OCHA functions.

8U (Mites):

- 8U is set for birth years 2011 or 2012
- The cost of the 8U program is as follows:
 - \$50 Registration Fee (**Paid before September 28, 2019, late registration fee is \$75**)
 - \$447 Ice fees (broken down in to 3 payments Oct. 1, Nov. 1 & Jan. 1)
 - \$190 Fundraising Fee (6 discount cards & 10 raffle tickets.)
 - \$46 USA Hockey Registration Fee
- 8U follows the ABC's of ADM (American Development Model). Your child will learn Agility, Balance and Coordination. Fun & Fundamentals. Keeping things fun and more age appropriate while helping every player to improve his or her fundamental skills.
- Each team will practice twice a week. 8U practices are on Tuesdays from 6:00-6:50 PM and on Thursdays from 5:30-6:20 PM starting October 8, 2019.
- Teams will participate in various games and jamborees throughout the season.
- It is **mandatory** that all families volunteer to help throughout the season with home jamborees and games.
- Game jersey and game socks are provided.
- 8U games are played on either half ice or cross ice.
- Games are played four (4) on four (4) with a goalie. No score is kept on the scoreboard.
- It is each player/parent's responsibility to make sure each player attends **all** team practices, games, jamborees and team functions. We all have busy schedules, so please communicate to with your team coach/ team manager if you need to miss a day.

- Practices and games are typically only canceled if the Sportsplex is closed or an opposing team cancels. Please get your players to practice and onto the ice on time. We typically only have 50 minutes of ice time, so allow time to get them dressed to take the ice at the start time of your practice or game.
- Each player is responsible for providing their own equipment. Player's helmets must have a sticker displaying a current date of expiration.
- Each player will sign a Code of Conduct and will be required to abide by the Code of Conduct at all OCHA functions.
- Any player transferring from another association will require a player release.

10U (Squirts):

- Any player with hockey experience and a birth year of 2009 or 2010
- The cost of the 10U program is as follows:
 - \$50 Registration Fee (**Paid before September 28, 2019, late registration fee is \$75**)
 - \$774 Ice fees (broken down in to 3 payments Oct. 1, Nov. 1 & Jan. 1)
 - \$190 Fundraising Fee (6 discount cards & 10 raffle tickets.)
 - \$46 USA Hockey Registration Fee
- Each team will practice twice a week. 10U practices are on Tuesdays from 7:00-7:50 PM and on Thursdays from 6:30-7:20 PM starting October 8, 2019. Dry land training will be held prior to practicing on the ice.
- Practices are a combination of full ice and half ice.
- Each team will play approximately 12 game days for the season, and tournaments on top of these.
- All squirt games are full ice.
- Squirt games are (3) 12 minute periods.
- Home games are curfew games and cannot exceed (1) hour.
- Scorekeepers and timekeepers are parent volunteers. It is **mandatory** that all families volunteer throughout the season.
- Tournament games are typically spread over 3 days. Friday or Monday games are likely.
- Home and away tournaments are discussed at the parent meeting. Parent meeting will be held at the start of the season.

- It is each player/parent's responsibility to make sure each player attends **ALL** team practices, games, tournaments and team functions.
- Practices and games are typically only cancelled if the Sportsplex is closed or an opposing team cancels. Please get your player to practice and onto the ice on time. We only have typically 50 minutes, so allow time to get them dressed to take the ice at the start time of your practice or game.
- Each player is responsible for providing their own equipment. Player's helmets must have a sticker displaying a current date of expiration.
- 2 club jerseys (one home and one away) and game socks will be provided prior to the first game of the season. Each team will need one or two jersey volunteers to collect, transport and wash jerseys for the season.
- Each player and parent will sign a Code of Conduct and will be required to abide by the Code of Conduct at all OCHA functions.
- Any player transferring from another association requires a release from the previous organization.
- Offsides and penalties are introduced at this level.

12U (Pee Wee):

- Any player with hockey experience and a birth year of 2007 or 2008
- The cost of the 12U program is as follows:
 - \$50 Registration Fee (**Paid before September 28, 2019, late registration fee is \$75**)
 - \$839 Ice fees (broken down in to 3 payments Oct. 1, Nov. 1 & Jan. 1)
 - \$190 Fundraising Fee (6 discount cards & 10 raffle tickets.)
 - \$46 USA Hockey Registration Fee
- Each team will practice twice a week. 12U practices are on Tuesdays from 8:00-8:50 PM and on Thursdays from 7:30-8:20 PM starting October 8, 2019. Dry land training will be held prior to practicing on the ice.
- Each team will play approximately 12 game days for the season, and tournaments on top of these.
- Games are (3) 12 minute periods.
- Home games are curfew games and cannot exceed (1) hour.
- Scorekeepers and timekeepers are parent volunteers. It is **mandatory** that all families volunteer throughout the season.
- Home and away tournaments are discussed at the parent meeting. Parent meeting will be held at the start of the season.
- It is each player/parent's responsibility to make sure each player attends **ALL** team practices, games, tournaments and team functions.
- Practices and games are typically only cancelled if the Sportsplex is closed or an opposing team cancels. Please get your player to practice and onto the ice on time. We only have typically 50 minutes, so allow time to get them dressed to take the ice at the start time of your practice or game.

- Each player is responsible for providing their own equipment. Player's helmets must have a sticker displaying a current date of expiration.
- 2 club jerseys (one home and one away) and game socks will be provided prior to the first game of the season. Each team will need one or two jersey volunteers to collect, transport and wash jerseys for the season.
- Each player and parent will sign a Code of Conduct and will be required to abide by the Code of Conduct at all OCHA functions.
- Any player transferring from another association requires a release from the previous organization.
- Slap shots are introduced at this level.

14U (Bantam):

- Any player with hockey experience and a birth year of 2005 or 2006
- The cost of the 14U program is as follows:
 - \$50 Registration Fee (**Paid before September 28, 2019, late registration fee is \$75**)
 - \$969 Ice fees (broken down in to 3 payments Oct. 1, Nov. 1 & Jan. 1)
 - \$190 Fundraising Fee (6 discount cards & 10 raffle tickets.)
 - \$46 USA Hockey Registration Fee
- Each team will practice twice a week. 14U practices are on Mondays from 6:30-7:50 PM and Wednesdays from 7:30-8:20 PM beginning October 7th, 2019. Expect drylands before or after practice times as well.
- 14U will play approximately 2-4 games per week, generally weekends from November through February.
- Games are (3) 15 minute periods.
- Scorekeepers and timekeepers are parent volunteers. It is **mandatory** that all families volunteer throughout the season.
- Home and away tournaments are discussed at the parent meeting. Parent meeting will be held at the start of the season.
- It is each player/parent's responsibility to make sure each player attends **ALL** team practices, games, tournaments and team functions.
- Practices and games are typically only cancelled if the Sportsplex is closed or an opposing team cancels. Please get your player to practice and onto the ice on time. We only have typically 50 minutes, so allow time to get them dressed to take the ice at the start time of your practice or game.
- Each player is responsible for providing their own equipment. Player's helmets must have a sticker displaying a current date of expiration.

- 2 club jerseys (one home and one away) and game socks will be provided prior to the first game of the season. Each team will need one or two jersey volunteers to collect, transport and wash jerseys for the season.
- Each player and parent will sign a Code of Conduct and will be required to abide by the Code of Conduct at all OCHA functions.
- This is typically a player's last season of house hockey. After Bantam, players usually play for their high school team or a travel team. At this time, OCHA does not offer house hockey beyond 14U.
- Any player transferring from another association requires a release from the previous organization.
- Body checking is introduced at the Bantam level.